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everywhere

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Community the new face of art



Three Gorges resettlers, casualties of the Wenchuan earthquake, migrant workers and mental patients are the focus of the first Beijing 798 Biennial.

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Medicine on 'essential' list gets government price cut

By Jin Zhu

In the future, visits to the doctor may be less likely to send your wallet into cardiac arrest. A new essential medicine system by the Ministry of Health of health would hold down the prices of the most common medicines and force doctors to use a generic whenever possible, according to an announcement Tuesday.

As a part of ongoing medical reforms, the system includes a list of 307 "essential medicines," which would be produced, distributed and sold at fixed prices set by the government.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines essential medicines as those which satisfy a basic healthcare needs and are available at all times in adequate amounts, in appropriate dosage and at an affordable price.

Most of the 307 drugs are prescription-only, and 200 are Western medicine. The rest are traditional medicines, which have been in use a long time and are safe, effective and reasonably priced, the ministry said.

The list will be adjusted every three years to account for changes in healthcare needs.

About 30 percent of the state-owned health institutions will be given all essential medicines on the list by the end of this year; the rest will have them before 2020.

Fu Wei, a spokesman for the ministry's Rural Health Department, said these cheap but effective drugs have been unavailable for a long time. Many pharmaceutical companies halted their manufacture to push more profitable drugs on patients, he said.

According to a survey by the Beijing Drug Administration in 2003, nearly 50 of the essential

medicines cannot be found in Beijing. One-third have gone out of production.

"Patients had no choice but to pay for the most expensive drugs," Fu said.

All listed drugs will be sold at zero added cost by community health centers in rural and urban areas. These health institutions will be required to use listed essential medicines whenever possible to treat patients.

"This will protect people's right of access to medicine and lower the total drug costs," he said.

Many experts have praised the new system, though there are lingering doubts about its effectiveness.

"There is no doubt that it is good news for patients. However, I worry it might damage the doctor-patient relationship. If the doctor prescribes another medicine, how can they have faith that he believes they need it and isn't just trying to gouge them for a profit?" He Pin, a Beijing resident, said.

"Although the system calls on health institutions to put essential medicines first, there are no safeguards in place to make sure they are doing as told. Higher-level hospitals also face more patients with complex ailments. Since essential medicines are only useful in treating common illnesses, it is hard for these hospitals to put them first," Sun Xuejian, a doctor of internal medicine at Tianjin Third Center Hospital, said.

Drawing up the list of essential medicines is easy. But crafting policies and measures to ensure the effect is something else, Zheng Hong, director of Drug Policy and Essential Drugs System Division of the ministry, said.

According to a survey by the Beijing Drug Administration in 2003, nearly 50 of the essential



A new essential medicine system would help keep hospital visits affordable.

CFP Photo

Iodine levels fine in Beijing salt

By Han Manman

The capital has no plans to adjust its current iodization of salt, the local government said this week after the Ministry of Health announced its plans to drop the standard iodine content in salt next year.

The new move comes in response to concerns about excessive iodine intake.

The Beijing health bureau is currently conducting a health survey of all residents to learn about iodine consumption in the capital. Any future policy adjustments will be based on the survey results.

China used to be one of the most iodine-deficient countries prior to a compulsory national strategy that pushed iodized salt to dominate the market after 1994.

Prior to 1994, 700 million people were getting too little iron, and one-fifth of all children from the ages of eight to 10 had goiters.

Higher living standards are also allowing people to receive iodine from more seafoods and vegetables.

However, recent statistics indicate an increase in thyroid cancer and related diseases. This has raised concern over the negative effects of salt iodization, and newspaper articles are questioning whether excessive iodine consumption is driving the spike in these ailments.

But experts warn that correlation does not equal causation.

"There is not enough evidence that adding a little bit of iodine to salt will cause thyroid cancer or disease. Maybe some very sensitive people do react badly to the extra iodine. But the incidence of this is extremely low," Mu Yiming, a professor at the General Hospital of the PLA, said.

He said pressure, exhaustion and environmental pollution can also cause thyroid problems, and suggests all provinces set their own standards for salt iodization.

Most Beijing markets sell only iodized salt. Patients that need non-iodized salt should go to the nearest branch of the China National Salt Industry Corp with a physician's prescription.

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MSN recovers from crash, but outrage a warning

By Han Manman

MSN Messenger was unavailable for two days following an earthquake in Taiwan that once again damaged the trans-Pacific Internet cables. It was back Wednesday, but the downtime was a cruel reminder as to how much local businesses and Web users rely on the protocol.

Connections in several cities went down Monday at 2:20 pm, opening a torrent of complaints on MSN China. No one was able to converse with friends and colleagues.

Microsoft confirmed Wednesday that the August 17 earthquake was responsible for damages to undersea optic fiber cables.

The magnitude 6.5 quake, which hit 190 kilometers East-

Southeast of Hualien, Taiwan, broke the undersea cables of China Telecom and China Unicom. With the both major fixed-line operators capable of crossing the straits knocked out, trans-Pacific Internet traffic became impossible in China and neighboring countries, according to a release by Microsoft on its MSN China website.

China has millions of MSN users. The tool has been viewed as more fashionable and professional than Tencent's QQ.

With access gone for two days, any companies were at a loss for what to do.

"My company trades overseas. MSN is so important to me because I use it to discuss details with overseas clients and suppli-

ers whenever I find a problem," Ye Jun, a Beijing trader, said.

From Monday to Tuesday, he had to phone customers several times. "It's so troublesome. Sometimes I need to phone one client several times within the hour. It's a waste of my time," Ye said.

Many businessmen suffered the similar problems. Some local companies even let their staff go home since there was no way to communicate with their overseas headquarters.

In December 2006, another quake in Taiwan smashed cables mangling Internet access for nearly a month. But reliance on MSN has only increased since then.

"Maybe this second MSN crash should sound a few

alarms," Lin Zhiqiang, an MSN user, said.

"MSN is like a bomb: You never know when it will explode and damage your work and your information security. Think about the consequences if this crisis had not been an accident, but a premeditated destruction of our primary communication platform," Lin said, citing the need for an alternative to MSN.

Hong Bo, an Internet expert, said MSN does not offer a server in China and China does not have an alternative website. Whenever any undersea fiber optic cable is damaged, MSN may become inaccessible in Asia. Hong said high operation costs have discouraged Microsoft from opening its own server in China.

Bird's Nest advertisers stopped at the door

By Zhao Hongyi

Huang Yizhong, a fruit wholesaler in Taiwan, was stunned when his employees were barred from installing 80,000 seat-back covers with commercial ads in the National Sports Center on August 8, the evening of the Italian Super Cup finals between Lazio and Inter Milan.

Huang obtained the rights on auction to display his company name and address on the backs of seats in the stadium that evening.

Since the Olympic Games, many have wondered how to best use the sports facilities. The National Stadium Co, the joint venture daily business operator of the sports center, leased the stadium to Beijing United Vansen International Sports, a sporting agent that invited Italian Super Cup organizers to hold their finale on the anniversary of the Olympics.

To better manage and profit from the contest, the agent contracted Beijing Yihai Auction to auction off advertising rights to the stadium's 80,000 seat covers.

On July 31, Yihai Auction invited a number of interested buyers to bid. But after hours of negotiations under pressure from the National Stadium Co, Yihai closed the auction and awarded the rights directly to Taipei Agricultural Products Marketing, of which Huang Yizhong is the chairman.

But the National Stadium Co. turned him away on the day of the event, saying it only leased the rights to use the playing field of stadium to Beijing United Vansen International Sports: the deal excluded the placement of commercial images.

"The auction of ad space exceeds the scope of the agreement," the stadium operator said in its statement.

Beijing United Vansen International Sports has kept silent since the auction ended. Before the auction, Ma Jian, its general manager, said the contract was ambiguous about prohibiting ads. "We interpret the clauses as giving us full advertising rights," Ma said.

Xu Yingde, general manager of Beijing Yihai, agreed. "The original contract did not clearly exclude commercial auctions and operations. I hoped the seat covers would have been allowed in that evening."

"It's a waste of resources to prevent commercial ads inside the stadium on the final," Xu said.

The total loss is estimated at 240,000 yuan, all of which falls to Xu and Ma.

"It's like renting a house. We have paid the renting fee, so why don't we have the right to use its chairs and sofas?" Xu said.

"Yihai has to take a loss, and we are facing the possible legal prosecution from the Taiwanese company."

"It's understandable that the National Stadium operator wants to use the sports center in line with the practices of the International Olympic Committee," Ke Waiweng, legal professor from China University of Political Science and Law, told Beijing Today.

"But it should have clearly stated such details in the contract," Ke said.

CCTV cartoon clones Japanese classic



China version Dudu



Japan version Shin-chan



The parallels between Dudu and Crayon Shin-chan are striking.



Photos provided by Youku.com

By Wang Yu

Two years after his controversial debut on CCTV, Dudu, the 5-year-old cartoon boy, is once again stuck in the middle of an online media storm. This time, critics say the evidence is clear that Dudu was plagiarized.

"The next generation should not live with cartoons like this" is the title of one angry post by a netizen unhappy with the cartoon. It includes 10 images of the show shown side-by-side with the Japanese classic *Crayon Shin-chan*. The scripts, scenes and story share an uncanny resemblance, and in some cases, the only way to tell them apart is by artwork.

"I never saw this series until everyone was talking about it. In my opinion, such plagiarism is unacceptable and makes me angry," said Li Bo, an animator who won the Aniwow! Award, an international student prize.

Dudu even talks like Shin - naive and sometimes foolish. Guangzhou Art-land Human

native and foreign. But the government policy today is simply to take brilliant works from other countries," the poster wrote.

The policy referred to is the decision by the State Administration of Radio Film and Television (SARFT) in 2006 which blocks TV stations from broadcasting foreign-made cartoons between 5 to 9 pm. The policy was aimed at giving native productions a competitive edge.

"Sometimes things are like this. You finish the project, get paid and move on. Clients don't care about original creations," said Sun Lu, a local graphic designer and animator.

"I'm angry because it may ruin the efforts of animators who are finally earning back trust in native productions," Li said.

Being Culture Communication Cooperation, the producer, attributes the similarities to shared voice actors. Many of the voice actors it hired were from Taiwan and had also worked on the earlier Chinese dub of *Crayon Shin-chan*.

There is one difference: Shin has a childish - borderline lecherous - fancy for beautiful women. Dudu is too Chinese for such shenanigans.

"I think only original productions will move an audience. Once you are confident and mature enough to tell stories of your everyday life in your own way, then they will tune in again and again," Li said.

The cartoon industry in China got a late start, but its young artists have grown fast. Li said some smaller studios have produced very high-quality works very quickly. But they remain outside the mainstream, which still believe cartoons and comics are kids-only.

The Japanese industry went through a similar road. Before the success of Osamu Tezuka, creator of *Astro Boy*, *Phoenix* and *Black Jack*, the public constantly bickered over which age group cartoons targeted.

"It's understandable that the National Stadium operator wants to use the sports center in line with the practices of the International Olympic Committee," Ke Waiweng, legal professor from China University of Political Science and Law, told Beijing Today.

"Our generation was born in the 1980s. We were lucky to grow up with a variety of cartoons both

Speculative fever is back

Ups and downs of ordinary people in stock market

By Huang Daohen

"Be fearful when others are greedy; be greedy when others are fearful."

Renowned investor Warren Buffett has always tried to warn newcomers to the stock market who are hoping to make a quick buck. But once again, Chinese investors are not listening.

More than a million people opened new trade accounts during the two weeks in July when the market showed a strong recovery.

But while everyone is greedy and expects to dump in yuan for instant profit, the specter of the speculative fever that caused last year's slump looms ever nearer.



Though the stock market had a two-week-slowdown, many believe speculative fever is back.

CFP Photos

An old man's ups and downs

Above the Jinhuyuan Plaza, one of the city's most bustling buildings by East Third Ring Road, Ren Zhicheng (pseudonym) sips from a delicate teacup and writes in his "stock market diary" in a room reserved for senior traders.

It was Tuesday, the day of the biggest one-day drop in the stock market this year. The morning session had just ended, and the LCD board before him showed no sign of recovery.

The Shanghai Composite Index (SCI) hit through 2,900 points, smashing investors confidence. Things have strayed too far from economic fundamentals," wrote Ren, a 67-year-old retiree from local government. He has been trading for 15 years.

Though he lost money, Ren felt lucky to have sold off his shares a couple of days before. Ren poured 10,000 yuan into shares in two newly listed companies.

He says he was a firm believer in the folk mantra, "Xin gu bu bai": new stocks never fail. "Everyone says he is buying new shares, so I'm sure I'll make money speculating," he says.

Outside the public trading room opened by CITICS, a locally based securities company, enthusiastic gray-haired traders like Ren wait for the afternoon session to open. They watch the big LCD board and chat with each other about their investments.

The atmosphere is cheery – a stark contrast from last fall when the trading hall was empty.

The market seems optimistic, Ren says. And why not? The stock market, based on the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index, shot up 90 percent this year.

Every new investor wanted to

be the next Ren. Profits from the stock market had made him an owner of three apartments valued 5 million yuan.

But nobody always wins. Ren says he remembered how awful it was when he took his first steps into the market in 1994. The Shanghai index slumped 79 percent in July 1994 and he lost almost every penny he had saved.

It later led him to a hard decision: to sell his siheyuan, the traditional courtyard where his family had lived in for decades.

"But, it was worth it. My life has changed ever since in a way that was never imagined before," he says, recalling the long road from the 1960s and 1970s.

"Back then, everyone dressed same, spoke the same and got paid the same," he says. "Stocks are now an indispensable part of my life, just like eating and sleeping."

Speculative fever is back

Ren is one of the millions of investors who put their hopes in the country's resurgent stock market, which recently overtook Japan as the world's second largest.

The government lifted in late June its ban on new share listings, which was seen by many as a signal of market recovery.

According to the brokerage Oriental Securities, more than a million new investors have jumped into the market in July. The number of new trading accounts soared to a weekly record of 508,900.

The corporation did not report a total for the number of individual Chinese investors but estimated there were about 130 million trading accounts as of the end of June – the equivalent of one for every 10 of the nation's 1.3 billion people.

But unlike Ren, a veteran



Ren says he spends most of his time in the trading room.

With each plunge, investors will grow more mature and more immune to market volatility. ♪

trader, most of these new investors appear to be relatively young and with low incomes. Wen Yijun, an industrial analyst at the Oriental Securities' Beijing branch, says.

"A large number of these stock market traders are from the post-1980 generation and are 29 or younger," Wen says. "They don't have saved much and are quick to buy and dump."

Besides, even those who were trapped last year are venturing back into the market.

IT engineer Lee Rui, 26, says he

did not dare to touch any stocks for a year after the crash. But in June, when the stock market started to recover, he invested 20,000 yuan into the market and made 2,000 within a week.

When asked why he sold his shares so quickly, Lee says: "Now is the time for speculation. I just want to make money and get out quickly."

If the trend continues, Wen says it would lead to trouble. In China, trading by individual investors accounts for 60 percent of the market volume whereas in

the US, individuals account for only 5 percent.

Frenzy alarms government

While investors expect the market to continue its rise, the authorities are hearing alarm bells. CCTV and The People's Daily warned about the danger of speculation this week.

The country's banking regulator has also issued a statement ordering institutions not to finance speculators, which was confirmed as the cause of Tuesday's plunge.

On Tuesday morning, the stock market tumbled 5.8 percent, its biggest daily drop in nine months. The plunge was caused by traders pulling out, because many believed the 90-percent rally earlier this year was far ahead of what it should have been in the case of economic recovery.

But analysts say the two-week slump had returned the stock market to a reasonable point.

"Earlier this year, the index rose too fast and without correction, and that caused a torrential fall," Wen says.

A relatively narrow range of 2,800 to 3,100 points would be reasonable for now, he says.

But veteran trader Ren says this week's plunge is only a moment in 15 years of ups and downs. "The stock market is much more intricate than the gears I studied as a machinist. There are no formulas to follow," he says. "But there is one thing that is certain – With each plunge, investors will grow more mature and more immune to market volatility."

"Maybe next year it can go as high as 8,000 points," Ren says, as he joined the throngs in CITICS. A friend standing by says that was unlikely. Ren shoots back, "Well, at least 5,000."

Should you look for work in China?



More foreigners have been seen at job fairs in China during recent years.

CFP Photo

Overseas hunters say

By Zhang Dongya

There are a variety of reasons why different foreigners come to China for jobs.

I got a job teaching in China by chance. I used to teach in Minnesota but was let go as a non-tenured teacher and had to re-apply.

After numerous applications and interviews, I was asked to come for an interview to teach in China. I went to the interview and got the job, and that was the only job I succeeded at. Within 20 days I was in China, and two days later school started.

I have been in China for almost a year. I study Chinese every day, and travel as much as possible. The one thing I know is that the people here are extremely nice and I feel like I cannot give enough back for the things they do.

I think there is a surge (of job seekers) because the stereotype of Old China is wearing away.

Also, probably the number one thing is that there is so much growth potential. The Chinese have been bred to think a certain way so any outside the box idea (maybe an idea that is normal in the Western world) has potential to flourish in China.

— Scott Kielkuki,
teacher in China

The reason why I went to work in China was out of desperation. I had spent many years in a long and fruitless search for full-time academic employment. I got several

very good visiting appointments at American University, but kept narrowly missing getting a full-time tenure track appointment.

Then a friend emailed me about a teaching job in Henan Province in China. I spent my first year teaching there and I got a teaching job at the Beijing Second Foreign Languages University.

I got my present full-time job as a corporate trainer and writer at the China National Petroleum Company subsidiary company, the Great Wall Drilling Company, by attending a job fair for foreigners in town.

(The surge of Americans looking for jobs in China) doesn't surprise me at all. The job market in the US was really terrible last summer and fall. And while America's recession may be coming to an end, the US unemployment rate will be high for years to come and job creation is going to be anemic.

By contrast, China is a land of opportunity, even with its slowing economy. Indeed, for Americans who are self-starters, have initiative, skills and the personal qualities needed to cope with living in a country with a very different culture and language.

I'd urge them to follow that old mantra, "Go West young man or woman ... to China!" That old mantra has now taken on a new and interesting twist!

— Daniel Garst, 50, a full-time worker in China

The *New York Times* recently ran an article about young Americans flocking to China for job opportunities because job prospects are so bleak in the US. The article made it sound as if it's easy to find a good job here even if you don't speak Mandarin or know much about Chinese culture.

Is it really that easy? The answer, quite simply, is no.

A depressed US job market

A US media outlet reported recently that affected by the financial crisis, college graduates throughout the nation face gloomy job market prospects. The growing economy and low cost of living in China is a lure to them.

"It's really not the right time to graduate when news about unemployment and M&A of enterprises can be seen in the newspaper everyday."

"We really don't know what will happen tomorrow, and we have no sense of security," said two fresh graduates, who both graduated in May with a Harvard MBA degree, and are still hunting for jobs.

The worldwide financial crisis has led to a depressed US job market in 2009, and a lot of college graduates face a grim "graduation means unemployment" dilemma.

Turn to Beijing, Shanghai for jobs

Due to the severe job situation, US graduates have to find another way to make a living, so coming to China has become their first choice. They are attracted by the excellent conditions in China: rapidly growing economy, low cost of living, and a chance to bypass some of the paying-dues that is common to first jobs in the US. Therefore, Chinese cities, such as Beijing and Shanghai, are new lands of opportunity for job seekers.

"I've seen a surge of young people coming to work in China over the last few years," said Jack Perkowski, founder of Beijing-headquartered ASIMCO Technologies, one of the largest automotive parts companies in China.

"When I came over to China, that was the first wave of Americans coming to China," he said. "These young people are part of this big second wave."

Cheap to start a business

The low cost of starting a business is another reason American graduates to come to work in China. After graduating with a degree in biology from Harvard in 2008, Misium came to China to study the language. Then, he started an academic consulting firm that works with Chinese students who want to study in the US.

"It's just so cheap to start a business in China," he said.

It cost him the equivalent of US \$12,000, which he had in savings.

Among many young Americans, they also consider promotions.

"There is no doubt that China is an awesome place to jump-start your career. Back in the US, I would be intern No. 3 at some company or selling tickets at Lincoln Center."

(By Huang Daohen)



Local expert says

By Zhang Dongya

This year comes a big surge for foreigners looking for jobs in China, which shows obviously in the annual job fair for foreigners organized by the Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs. This year's fair was held in April in Beijing, and a record number of 1,300 foreigners attended. In previous years, there were only around 600.

According to the feedback from companies attending the job fair, nearly all of them have successfully recruited qualified employees. That is to say, the applicants, to some extent, can satisfy the employing market's demands.

However, there are also aspects that the two parts can not be matched very well. To be specific, there are still many job vacancies in education and culture, but fewer opportunities in China for professional and technical personnel.

Unlike previous years, more foreigners with professional techniques and skills, such as in auto and motor technology, want to seek opportunities in China. But, except for some overseas-funded companies, the demand in the countries for

such professionals remains small. It is partly because Chinese are still unused to giving important high-tech positions to foreigners.

Some foreigners prefer jobs in commercial field, like sales and marketing, but they find it is hard to do such work in the country.

For most foreign applicants, it is still easier to get a position in education or culture.

Actually, for the company, it costs less to employ a foreigner than a local. There is less to pay: they only need to offer the medical insurance and a housing subsidy in some companies, but would need to supply complicated welfare for a local employee.

As for new graduates from overseas, they might only get a teaching job at the beginning instead of the one matches their major, since they lack experience in that field.

The market in China is required to be open-minded and regulated, and it needs time to have some changes.

— Li Hai, head of the job fair for foreigners held by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA) since it was started in 2005



China's iron industry got its way on iron ore prices, but many doubt the move is more than symbolic.

CFP Photo

The iron ore deal

The China Iron and Steel Association (CISA) finally managed to negotiate prices for iron ore below that demanded by the dominant trio of miners.

Price negotiations halted when Rio Tinto was accused of industrial espionage, but China Iron and Steel Association (CISA) reached a new agreement with the world's third largest ore producer, Anglo-Australian Fortescue Metals Group (FMG), on ore prices Monday.

CISA secretary-general Shan Shanghua said the association reached an agreement with FMG for July-December imports of

Fortescue's rocket fines for 6.4 yuan per dry metric ton, a drop of 35 percent from last year's price, and iron ore lumps for 6.8 yuan per dry metric ton, less than half of last year's price.

Liu Zhenjiang, party secretary of CISA, said the agreement was an important step in price negotiations for iron ore imports.

The agreement binds China to acquire 20 million wet metric tons from Fortescue between July 1 and December 31, FMG said. CISA has guaranteed FMG will have priority in negotiations for iron ore prices in 2010

if negotiations are conducted.

FMG is Australia's third largest iron ore producer after Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton. Its 2009 annual output capacity is expected to reach 50 million tons – a tenth of China's total demand – according to CISA.

Earlier in March, China Valin Iron & Steel from Hunan Province agreed with FMG to invest 7.25 billion yuan in the world's third largest ore producer and obtained 17.4 percent of its shares. In the price cutting agreement, China also promised to offer up to US \$6 billion in financing before the

end of September to FMG.

On May 26, Rio Tinto agreed a 33-percent price cut on iron ore with Japanese and Korean steel mills. China, the world's biggest steel maker, insisted on a 40 to 45 percent cut.

In June, Rio Tinto declined Chinalco's 133-billion-yuan offer to purchase its shares and turned to BHP Billiton for financing. In July, China arrested four Rio Tinto employees in Shanghai for defrauding officials and stealing industrial and business secrets that cost the country 700 billion yuan over the past several years, local media reported.

Big Three response

CISA has finally managed to negotiate prices for iron ore that come in below those demanded by the dominant trio of miners – Australia's BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto and Brazil's Vale – but said it was unlikely to shake the giants

from their position.

Although FMG is committed to a unified price, it is not universal. In the Chinese market, the proportion of ore imported on the spot is as high as 60 percent, where the price is significantly

higher than the price seen in long-term agreement.

This gives iron ore producers a strong incentive to sell at the spot price, and BHP and Rio have increasingly gone that way.

CISA is trying to draw Rio and

BHP back into negotiations, but a spokesman from Rio Tinto already said the price agreed on by China's steel firms and FMG will never set the price for the whole industry.

BHP Billiton and Vale have refused to comment.

Analyst

Analysts cheered the new deal as a successful attempt to break the impasse with the world's three biggest iron ore mines. The country is trying to build a new ore price negotiation model that gives the buyer more power.

Inside China, observers believe the price cut is more strategic and symbolic than something with an actual benefit – especially since the agreement is only for six months.

The Chinese edition of The

Financial Times said CISA won room for further negotiations rather than the battle. China still has little power to bargain for price cuts. It is now facing two headaches: at home it needs to unify operations at 112 iron mills, and abroad it needs to unify the voices at the bargaining table.

Industry analysts have been warned by CISA not to comment on the negotiations.

"Though it seems China will

save 205 million yuan with the FMG contract, it just puts 41 billion at risk," said an analyst who asked not to be named.

"People in the industry are now realizing a long-term contract is better for market stability. I'm not going to comment on CISA's performance this year, but it is clear in everybody's eyes."

Another said the results of the negotiation were far from ideal, and that Baosteel was

closer to market than CISA and had a better understanding of its trends.

"In the coming years, we can expect China to refuse prices set by other countries: China will demand its own price," the analyst said.

"If Baosteel hosts the negotiations, it will be dealing company to company, unlike company to association. It will be more balanced."

(By Zhao Hongyi/Huang Daohen)

Dell developing phones for China

A Dell spokesman said the Round Rock, Texas, company is supporting China Mobile to create "a more personalized Internet experience." He didn't provide details about the phone's availability, price or features.

In recent months, major PC makers, suffering from stiff competition and pricing pressure, have been turning their attention to smart phones – mobile devices like Apple's iPhone that offer access to email and support other multimedia functions. Finding new ways to grow is especially important for Dell, which has lost PC market share to rival Hewlett-Packard.

Reader's Digest shakes US only

By Venus Lee

Although US-based monthly magazine Reader's Digest said Tuesday that it planned to file a bankruptcy petition in the US, its business in China is performing well.

Shi Yongqiang, general manager of RDA China, said Thursday that Digest's business in China saw no impact from its parent company's predicament.

In cooperation with the Shanghai Press and Publishing Development Company, Digest entered the China market in 2008 through Puzhi, a Shanghai-based monthly magazine. Reader's Digest (Shanghai) Advertising Company is responsible for management of the magazine.

"Puzhi performs well in China. The financial restructuring of the parent company has little impact on us," he said. "Our employees, cooperative partners and advisers are working as usual."

He believes Digest's market prospects in China remain positive. "Since April, RDA released its first enlarged edition in its 87 years of history and it set a good record selling 100,000 copies in a single month."

He also said Puzhi has been following the Chinese market. "We aim to be match Chinese people's reading habits, and we have been improving the expressive force of written words and pictures, and provide a wealth of valuable information for Chinese readers," he said.

As for the parent company's bankruptcy petition, Shi blamed it on the rise of new media. "But the arrangement doesn't affect employees, it doesn't affect the vast majority of vendors and it doesn't mean the parent company will do mass layoffs or sell off its assets. It's business as usual."

Reader's Digest, known worldwide for its magazine with general-interest and inspirational stories, has been trying to cut costs since it was bought in 2007 by an investor group led by Ripplewood Holdings.

The bankruptcy would take the form of a prearranged filing, which comes after a company has already reached deals with lenders to reduce debt. The deal, if approved by a bankruptcy court, would allow Reader's Digest to slash its debt load to US \$550 million (3.8 billion yuan) from the current US \$2.2 billion.

The arrangement would also allow the company to reduce its annual interest payments on remaining debt to less than \$80 million from about US \$145 million, President and Chief Executive Officer Mary Berner said in an interview.

Sichuan earthquake donations

Where did the money go?

By Wang Dong

When a devastating earthquake hit Sichuan province last May, millions of Chinese contributed cash, clothes, tents and other materials to relief efforts. The relief donations totaled 76.7 billion yuan by the end of April, including 65.3 billion yuan in cash and 11.4 billion yuan in materials, *China Youth Daily* reported last Wednesday.

The question remains, Where has all the money gone?



Children in Yinchuan, northwest China, donated their pocket money to the quake-hit region in Sichuan on May 14, 2008.

CFP Photo

As much as 80 percent of the 76.7 billion yuan was eventually disbursed to government accounts under the name "extra revenue," according to new research conducted by the school of public and management at Tsinghua University.

The research showed that about 58 percent of the total charity money went directly to the government and another 31 percent to the local foundations. However, most of the money

donated to the local NGOs also went to the government's coffers, except for the small fraction that donors had specified must be used by NGOs.

Deng Guosheng, an associate professor at Tsinghua who headed the research, refused to make any further comments on the research over the phone. "I have said enough," he said.

The State Ministry of Civil affairs also cannot be reached for comments. Wang Zhenyao, direc-

tor of the ministry's Social Welfare and Charities Division, told the Beijing News last Thursday that the heavy state involvement was due to a "systematic problem." "The public is usually not willing to donate through NGOs, for the credibility of a number of NGOs is not high and their feedback is unclear," he said, "That's why the donations finally went to government."

Indeed, The Tsinghua research indicated that half of the people

who donated were not sure where their money went and some 60 percent said they had doubts about the work of NGOs and had more faith in the government.

As a result, many NGOs faced financial difficulties. Since the initial onrush of over 300 NGOs and 3 million volunteers after the quake took place, the damaged areas now have only about 50 NGOs and fewer than 50,000 volunteers, according to the study.

Expert's View

The number is actually not that important. What we should concern ourselves with are the reasons behind the facts.

Most NGOs in China are small and incapable. Many volunteers are very passionate but not professional. There are only a few that can handle and operate on just 100 million yuan, so it is unrealistic to think that all the quake donations should go to NGOs. Sichuan Red Cross received about 2 billion yuan donations after the earthquake, but the staff almost went crazy just sending invoices.

However, it is not a good thing that the government involved in the NGO's work. What the government should do is encourage NGOs to grow, by giving them money and chance to improve their ability. It is the government's responsibility to help NGOs enhance their credibility.

According to China's administrative regulations for registration of NGOs, an organization has to find a "governing agency" before it can be registered as a NGO. Only a few agencies are willing to accept grass-roots organizations, as they will offer no benefits: only responsibilities. As a result, numerous NGOs went to register as companies, which will bring tax and credibility problems. The government should loosen its policy on NGO registration.

The government should also make donation information more available and let public know how the charity money is used.

— Liu Youping, vice director of the China Charity Information Center, sponsored by the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Comment

People should benefit

I do not care who owns the charity money. I only care whether people in disaster regions can benefit from the donations. If the government can do a better job, fine.

— Vivian Huang, a magazine editor in Shanghai

Trust the government

I know little about NGOs and how they work. I donated my money to an organization last year when earthquake took place. However, I do not know where the money actually ended up. I think it is normal for the government to have all the donations. Who else

can we trust?

— Huang Liangliang, an IT manager in Shanghai

International norm

It is common internationally for governments to buy services from NGOs. For example, the total expenditure of US government buying NGO services is 1.5 times the donations to charity organizations.

— Xu Yongguang, the founder of the Project Hope education fund

Help NGOs

The government should allocate more money to NGOs, as it

cannot take care of all aspects that needed donations. We are now studying the psychological problems that the earthquake brought children left in the villages when their parents went to work in the big cities. Few people have recognized the importance of that. We can do a better job if we can get more help from the government.

— Wang Liji, a member of Sichuan Nanjiang NGOs' association.

Gov lacks efficiency

I did not donate much to the government then, as I doubt its

efficiency and did not think much would have been given to the people who really needed it. So I chose to donate to a foundation set up by a website named "niubo." Although they may not have certification, I still trust them as the volunteers who really went to the damaged areas and posted the pictures and very specific bill information on the website. Even the brand of bottled water and the size of the instant noodles were made public. I know where my money went and how it was used.

— Anton, a freelancer in Beijing

'Running Fan' gives history lecture in 798

By He Jianwei

In front of a blackboard, middle school teacher Fan Meizhong gave a less than five-minute history lecture to the audience before the opening of the first 798 Biennale last Saturday, which was his performance art as part of the biennial.

Fan is better known as Running Fan for having fled his classroom during last year's Sichuan earthquake – leaving his students behind.

Before the opening of the biennial, the curator of the performance art exhibition, Wang Jun announced all the performance artists had withdrawn from the biennial. "The organizers refused to allow Fan and other artists to perform in 798 Art District. I felt the biennial has lost its independence, so all the participant art-

ists in the performance art unit decide to quit from the biennial," Wang said.

Instead of performing in the exhibition hall as planned, the performance artists moved to an open area in 798 Art District to carry on with the performance.

When Fan appeared in the open area, crowds surrounded him. His voice vibrated with nervousness. It seemed that he was reciting his notes.

"All I want to express is rethinking of our education," Fan said after his performance. But the audience did not receive his message. "I felt it was not art and it is unworthy of my time," Jane Li, a reporter from *Beijing News*, said.

Besides Fan, Wu Ping, a Chongqing woman who held out against developers seeking to knock

her home down, rebuilt her house in 798. But Wu did not appear in the art district because she was blocked by the organizer.

Zhu Qi, curator of the biennial, said he proposed the idea of inviting the individuals modern China. "First, contemporary artists must learn from China's reality. Fan's brave frankness is more real than many artists' disputed. Secondly, the biennial will not only present the artists' work, but also is a platform for discussion and for allowing contemporary art to participate in the process of China's social development," Zhu said.

But worrying about Fan's negative influence, the organizer turned down Zhu's proposal one day before the opening. "I do not agree with Fan's values. He represents extreme egoism," he said.



Fan Meizhong giving an outdoor lecture on history and politics at Beijing's 798 Art Zone.

CFP Photo

Russian circus masters tour China

By Wang Yu

"There are still some regrets because due to the limitation of the venue, there are some programs we cannot perform here," said Galina Bagdasarova, one of the star tamers of the Nikulin Circus after her show in Beijing last Saturday.

Located in the Worker's Gymnasium, it was the first stop of the circus' China tour this year. Established in 1880 by Albert Salamonski, a former equestrian and gymnast, it is one of the oldest Russian circuses. The shows of the circus are generally very theatrical, with the acts having a connective theme or narrative thread. These acts include cabaret, dance, clowns, acrobats and lion, or in this case, tiger taming.

Bagdasarova never thought to continue her family's tradition until her father, Mikhail Bagdasarov, who is also a well-known tamer, made the decision for his daughter. Since childhood, Bagdasarova learned in tiger training, but chose to study choreography in college. "I used to dream of becoming a ballet dancer, but my father was the one who was in charge," Bagdasarova mused.

Being a tamer requires not only your time with the animals,

but also the relevant knowledge and training. Most of the tamers in Russia have degrees in zoology or a related field. But with the help of her father, she learned quickly, carrying on the family tradition.

"I don't think there is another way to continue this kind of art within families. My grandfather was the first tamer in this family. He used to be a normal circus worker and his interest in animal training led him to it. However, this was very rare," Bagdasarova said.

In 2008, Bagdasarova won the special award of the International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo, 16 years after she gave her debut performance to Beijing's audience the same venue.

In Russia, being an artist in the circus is an honor, as it is one of the most remarkable performance art forms in the nation. The big circuses receive a lot of financial support from the government, which is one of the reasons why Russians rank highest in the world, especially in the training of big animals.

"But the support has been decreasing in recent years, and privately-owned circuses that have emerged did pretty well. I think privatization may not be a bad thing. Perhaps the pressure



Galina Bagdasarova poses with her younger brother Artur in front of the tigers.

Photo by heymy

for revenue will help generate new ideas," Bagdasarova said.

Circus was born in the age when the people used performance to show off their conquest of beasts. However, hundreds of years later, people tend to see it as the abuse towards animals. Especially in the West.

"That's why I prefer to perform in front of Asian audiences who share the same understanding of circus with us. There are protectors when we go to Europe, but none of our tigers or other animals

are caught from the wild. They are born and raised in the zoo or by us. We treat them well and as everyone knows if we were to send them back into the wild they could never survive," Bagdasarova said.

But to the animals there is only one kind of relationship between themselves and humans—master and servant, which is tenable. In 2006, Bagdasarova's little brother, Artur, who is also her partner, sustained injuries to his head and one of his hands when he intervened

to stop a fight between two of the 10 tigers on stage. Bagdasarov was rescued when his father fired a starting pistol into the air and, with Galina's help, drove the tigers into their cage.

"That was one day I will never forget. You know, the tiger that attacked Artur was raised by us and it is still performing now. However, most tamers have similar experiences, and that is the real side our profession — we do things others can't do," Bagdasarova said.

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Four Chinese artists rebuild 'Berlin Wall'

By He Jianwei

"The Berlin Wall was a symbol of the Cold War and represented a splitting of Germany," Michael Schaefer, German ambassador to China said last Thursday at a showing of four Chinese artists' work to rebuild the Berlin Wall.

The four artists created four giant bricks, over two meters high, which will be shown in front of Brandenburg Gate on November 9 at the festival celebrating the 20th anniversary of the collapse of Berlin Wall.

To celebrate the anniversary, Goethe Institute asked artists from Mexico, Yemen, Israel, Palestine, North Korea, Cyprus and China to recreate sections of the Berlin Wall, including.

The wall represents not only the disruption of a nation, but a division between rich and poor, developed and developing, and even the different colors among people, the ambassador said.

China is famous for the Great Wall, but "the concept of a 'wall' is different in Germany. The Berlin Wall divided Germans, but the Great Wall played a role of unifying the nation (China)," he said.

The founder and president of the Goethe Institute China, Michael Kahn Ackermann, selected four prestigious Chinese contemporary artists: Huang Rui, Xu Bing, Zhang Xiaogang and Wang Guangyi.

Huang picked 20 pictures of 20 incidents in German and Chinese history to illustrate the relationship between art and political events. Two pairs of words are written on two sides of the brick – one side is Berlin and Beijing and the other is Art and Now.

He treated the historical incidents as part of art. "I can say 'art all' to conclude my work," he said.

In Zhang's work, one side depicts capitalism and the other socialism. His brick looks like a mirror. He painted a chair on



Xu Bing (right) explains Lu You's poem to the ambassador (middle).

each side and wrote the lyrics of Pink Floyd's *The Wall* on the capitalism side and the artist's diary on the other.

The real Berlin Wall separated two social systems: East Berlin was socialist and West Berlin was capitalist.

"Everyone who saw my work can also see himself or herself in the mirror. The viewers also become one of part of my work," Zhang said.

As one of the representatives of political pop art, Wang Guanyi painted a worker raising a hammer to smash a wall.

"The cultural event is meaningful for us to rethink the period of the Cold War. The tangible wall was toppled down, but does not the intangible wall still exist?" Wang said.

Next to Wang's work is Xu's, which looks like a gravestone engraved with calligraphy. The characters are from Xu's well-known work *Book from Heaven*, in which all characters are illegible and created by the artist.

Xu said the calligraphy on the stone is from a poem by Lu You (1125-1210), a poet in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279).

The poem is about Lu's sad marriage. His mother forced him to divorce his first wife. Lu loved his mother and reluctantly divorced



Huang Rui and his work

Photos provided by German Embassy

his wife.

Eight years after their divorce, Lu met his ex-wife in a garden and wrote the poem to express his sorrow and regrets.

"The feudal ethical code in

ancient China was like a wall making Lu and his wife divorce. Maybe there were many sad love stories among people in East and West Berlin because of the Berlin Wall," he said.

Pakistan touches base with Chinese provinces

By Zhang Dongya

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari will pay an official visit to Guangdong and Zhejiang provinces, major trading partners of Pakistan, this Friday.

Ambassador to China Masood Khan announced President Zardari's five-day visit at a press conference last week.

"The largest trade volume of import and export with Pakistan is the Guangdong Province, while the second largest is the Zhejiang," the ambassador said.

The President is visiting to further the promotion of trade and economic cooperation, and to increase China's investments

in Pakistan from these two provinces, he said.

He will also involve Chinese researches, academies, institutions and Chinese corporations in the areas of agriculture, particularly in the areas of water conservancy, small and medium sized dams and high efficiency irrigation.

They had signed for a credit of US \$700 million to finance small-and-medium sized dams. Also, they are likely to sign some agreements during the president's visit, including an agreement between south China and Pakistan agricultural projects.

"Pakistan and China already have very strong relations, and we

would like to strengthen them," Khan said.

They also are expecting more cooperation in education between the two countries. The ambassador said a large number of Pakistan students have studied in China and enjoyed it, and said China has a "high-standard of education and friendly atmosphere."

According to the data from their country, there are about 5,000 Pakistani students studying in Chinese universities. However, one of the difficulties is Pakistan does not recognize degrees granted by Chinese universities. But he said "that condition has been dropped."

When asked about the present security situation in Pakistan, Ambassador Khan said "it has been improved," military operations began.

He said as many as 700,000 people in different parts of Pakistan had already returned to their homes. And Pakistan has tried to guarantee people's security, including Chinese managers, engineers and workers in Pakistan.

Ambassador Khan said that Pakistan and China maintain a strong friendship, and these solid relations were supported not only by the top leadership of both sides, but also by the people of the two countries.

Chinese, US karst parks join hands to preserve beauty

By Wang Dong

Though thousands of kilometers apart, two parks in China and the US that share the similar distinct karst landscapes swore to join in preserving their beauty for future generations.

South China Karst World Heritage Site and Mammoth Cave National Park held a sister-park signing ceremony in Beijing this Monday, saying that the two sites will share managerial, technical and professional knowledge, as well as information, data, training and experience with each other in the future.

"This is the fourth of its kind," said Li Rusheng, deputy director-general of the Urban Development Department of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development. "I am confident that this relationship will serve as a platform for their communication as good as former ones and bring great benefits to these two magnificent sites."

The US has advantages in scientific research, science popularization and management, from which China's parks should learn, Li said.

"We will cooperate to translate the parks' websites and introductions, which will facilitate tourism," said Pat Reed, director of the Mammoth Cave National park. Reed has been to one of the park's sites and is looking forward to visiting the other two in the near future.

South China Karst World Heritage site consists of three sub-areas: Libo in Guizhou Province, Shilin in Yunnan Province and Wulong in Chongqing Municipality. The sub-areas offer a variety of topographical features, from the stone forests of Shilin to the natural bridges of Wulong. The sub-areas were recognized as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site in 2007.

Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky, established by the US National Park Service in 1941, has the longest known cave system in the world. It was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981.

Karst is an area of irregular limestone in which erosion has produced fissures, sinkholes, underground streams and caverns. The landscapes differ because of geology and climate. More limestone is dissolved and deeper sinkholes result in regions that experience short and intense periods of rainfall, such as southern China. At Mammoth Cave, rainfall is distributed throughout the year, so sinkholes are shallower.

WWF's Low-carbon program achieves good result in Pearl River Delta

By Venus Lee

The low-carbon manufacturing program for export factories carried by the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF) in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) has achieved impressive results after its year and a half trial, and more and more factories are showing interest in participating in the program.

The carbon emission of the first three pilot companies has been reduced 12 percent down to 24 percent during the past nine months, with a total reduction of 4,053 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. "The program helps manufacturers to be more climate friendly and get rewarded for being so," said business engagement leader of climate program, WWF Hong Kong.

The first pilot companies are from the electronics, plastics and textile sectors, because the WWF

believes the energy consumption and carbon emission level of these three industries are comparatively high.

Karen Ho, business engagement leader of the climate program and her team spent a year designing alternative technologies to improve energy saving and the management of carbon emissions. "The implementation of such measures would result in increasing the energy efficiency standard of these companies to the best practice level for their industries," she said.

According to one of the pilot companies, Lever Style Garments, the WWF offered 15 suggestions which contains energy-saving modifications in steam, compressed air and illuminating systems. "The implementation of the modification cost us 3 million yuan, but it can save 2.17 million yuan for the factory

each year," said Stanley Szeto, the chairman of the company.

Another two companies Compuime Electronics Inc and ITEM Plastics Inc can reach cost savings of 2.62 million yuan and 895,000 yuan respectively per year by implementing all suggested measures.

According to the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, 23 percent of China's carbon emissions are from export products manufacturing, so the WWF believes if energy saving measures are applied to all 55,000 factories in PRD, 74 million tons of carbon dioxide can be reduced annually. "The PRD represents a large share of Chinese and global manufacturing for the retail sector and has a significant potential to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Ho said.

Consumers across the world are increasingly demanding that retailers and brands are transparent about their carbon emissions and their efforts to control these emissions," Ho said. "Global retailers and brands are also looking for ways to engage their supply chains in these efforts."

Now not only are PRD factories interested in the program, more and more companies from other provinces are applying for the program as well. "Companies from the Yangtze River Delta and Chongqing have already expressed their cooperation intent to us, and our next plan is to cooperate with nine Shanghai companies," she said.

Besides the electrics, plastics and textile sectors, WWF plans to include toys, shoemaking and papermaking sectors in their program.

Event

Open house at BSB's new Shunyi campus

The British School of Beijing invites all parents and families to explore their new state-of-the-art campus, situated in the residential and educational area of Beijing. It's an opportunity to see its new school, which includes special art, music, dance and physical education facilities, six sciences and four information technology laboratories, two theatres and an Olympic swimming pool.

Where: British School of Beijing, Linyin Lu, Tianzhu Zhen, Shunyi

When: August 21, 10 am – 4 pm

Tel: 6458 0884

Artistic dance for children at Solana

Children's Academy of Artistic Dance (CAAD) has a free introduction day every 20 and 21 of each month. CAAD provides a fun and creative learning experience for children ages three and up in four dance majors: ballet, Chinese folk, Latin and musical theater. It offers a wide variety of elective courses in hip hop, jazz and classical Chinese dance. Parents are encouraged to participate in a hands on, intimate, parent-child class to learn and grow with their child.

Where: Solana lifestyle shopping park, 6 Chaoyang Park Road, Chaoyang District

When: August 21, 1: 30 – 9 pm

Tel: 5905 6565

Kids cooking class

The Hutong is having its cooking class for children this weekend. They will learn to turn the tables and serve up wild creations made from local and foreign ingredients.

Where: 8 Shuangsi Hutong, Jiugulou Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: August 22, 10 am – 1:30 pm

Tel: 6403 8570

Cost: 150 yuan and 130 yuan for members

(By Wei Ying)

Cappella singing group has new audition

By Annie Wei

The only a cappella group in town is going to have open auditions next month for their concert *A Broadway Christmas*.

The show *A Broadway Christmas* will be mostly Christmas carols plus a few modern and traditional Broadway, rock and pop songs.

The concert is scheduled for 90 minutes and Beijing Playhouse is looking for 11 singers and two vocal percussionists, or beatboxes.

These roles include soprano, alto, tenor, bass and percussion. "All ages are welcome. Nationality is not important. Some background in music and singing preferred but they must be able to sing in English," said Chris Verrill, executive director of Beijing Playhouse.

Verrill also suggests anyone interested should prepare something because they must perform a solo of their choosing



Beijing's only a cappella singing group Under Broadway

Photo provided by Beijing Playhouse

and a simple group piece will be taught at auditions to evaluate everyone's ability to perform in a group.

Verrill said that there will be three rehearsals every

week in October and November and eight performances from November 20 to December 23.

Where: Beijing Playhouse, Yew Chung International

School, 5, Houbailizhuang, Chaoyang District

When: September 20 at noon

and September 21, 8:30 pm

Contact: performance

@beijingplayhouse.com

The Great Wall bicycle challenge and poolside barbecue tomorrow

By Annie Wei

The China Charity Challenge and Roots and Shoots Team are organizing a fun bicycle challenge this Saturday. Participants will ride in the scenic back roads of the Huanghuacheng Great Wall area.

The route offers an opportunity to experience cycling Beijing at its best: away from city traffic, road rage and pollution. Take in fresh air, mountain vistas and some challenging hills to test upon limits.

The ride is open to all, but particularly for those who are considering or who have signed-up for the Roots and Shoots Yunnan Bicycle Challenge in Yunnan.

Starting from the Huanghuacheng Valley, all the way to Sihai Pass, the ride follows an "out and back" route, allowing them to turn back when they

feel tired without the pressure of "having to keep up."

The ride finishes at an open pool area in a newly finished resort. The resort boasts an incredible fish farm breeding different species of fish in spring water and a large outdoor pool. All riders

can enjoy the resort's open BBQ with outdoor seating. One of their specialties is the famous Huairou smoked trout. Riders wishing to do a shorter distance can always turn back early and enjoy the pool, snacks and views of mountains and the wall.

Sign up by Friday August 21, 12 pm at chinacharitychallenge.org.

China Charity Challenge is an organization founded and run by several expats who have been living in Beijing for a long time, aiming to develop a successful

model for adventure travel in China that benefits the local region through a long-term approach to sustainable development and responsible travel.

What you need to bring

A charged phone, money, water, snacks, sunscreen, sunglasses, GPS (optional), bike, spare shirt, swim suit and a small towel.

Hiring Bikes

Trek has a limited number of bikes for rent on the day for a special rate of 100 yuan.

Where: Chaoyang Trek store, Chaoyang Park South Gate, there is a big lane called "Tian Shui Yuan" that runs north-south.

When: August 22, 7:30 am

Cost: 250 yuan per person (including return bus trip, mechanics on site, BBQ lunch, prizes, raffle draw and pool entrance).



Riding around the wall!

Photo provided by Vinny Ng

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reality

explores a

in 798 Art District got a new addition for last Saturday's Biennial: a low-three Gorges resettlers with three single beds and an old wooden door. At 10 years, more attention has been going to the underprivileged and on the fringes of society. This awareness has imbued the contemporary cause of community spirit," Zhu Qi, curator of the first Beijing 798 Biennale.

resettlers, casualties of Wenchuan Earthquake, migrant workers and are the topics of the night. They embody contemporary art's focus on

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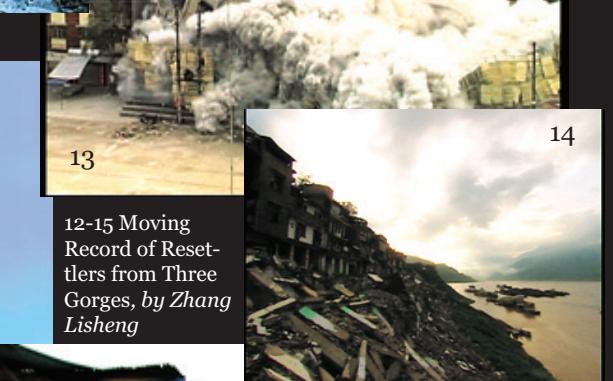
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Photos provided by 798 Biennale



Wandering Homestead:
Intellectuals in China,
by He Diqiu



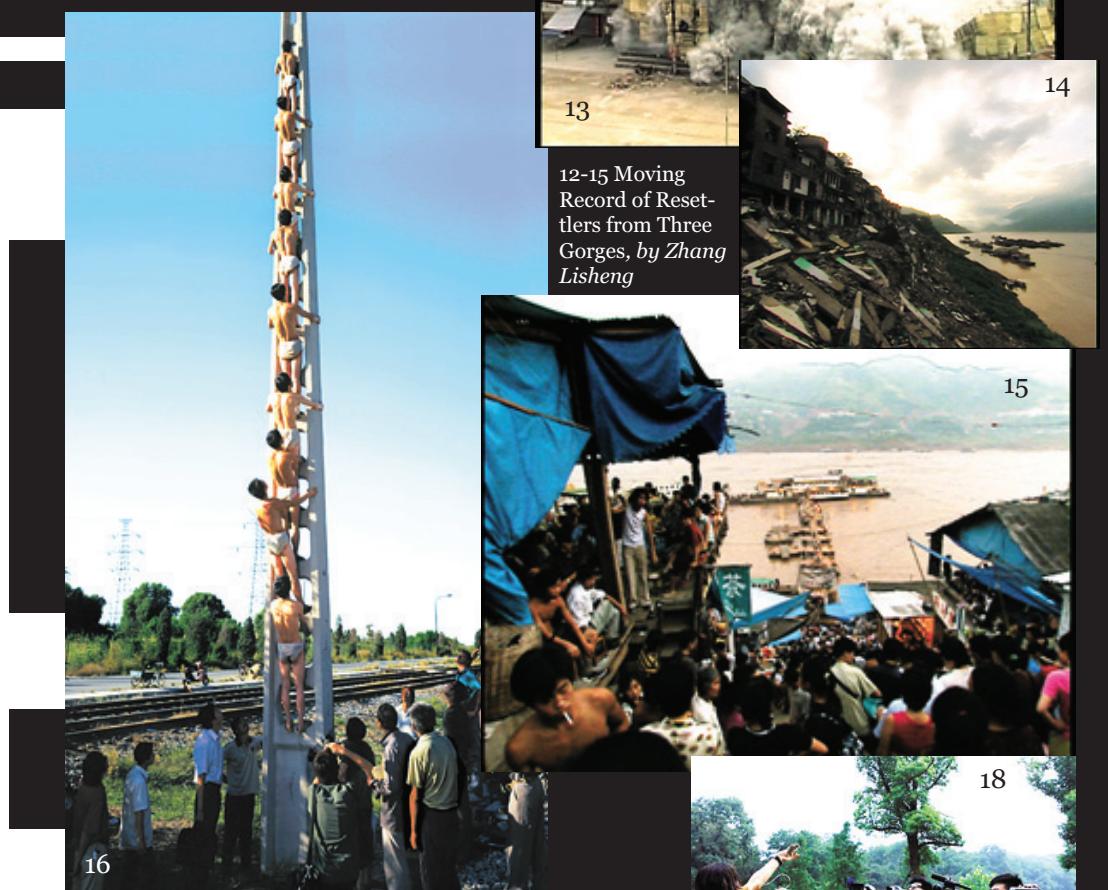
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Center stage

Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Yang Gen
BEIJING TODAY

A young talent as early as 17

By Charles Zhu

People's Literature, the most prestigious literary magazine in China, devoted a special issue last month to the works of new writers and artists born in the 1990s. Across the Pacific Ocean, the similarly young Nick McDonell, a 2007 graduate of Harvard who published his first novel *Twelve* at age 17, is celebrating the release of his third novel, *An Expensive Education* (256pp, Grove/Atlantic, US \$24).

In a smart and sexy combination of ivory academia and realpolitik, McDonell describes Harvard's dormitories, lecture halls, dining halls, elite finals clubs and the offices of its awesomely famous professors. The tale follows Michael Teak, 25, a young intelligence agent from the university. A golden-haired idealist, excellent athlete, master of many languages and "a good drinker," he is principled, taciturn and, of course, strikingly handsome.

Professor Susan Lowell has just won a Pulitzer Prize for her book about Hatasil, an East African freedom fighter. David Ayan is her singular Somali-born student. He is trying to become a member of one of Harvard's elite finals clubs and to understand Jane, his girlfriend from a privileged family.

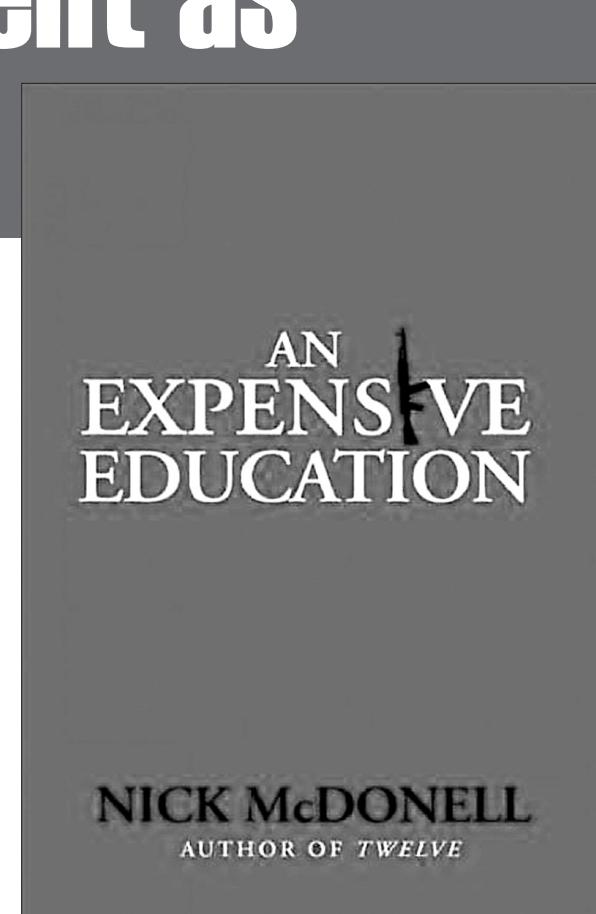
The story describes explosive scenes at a rebel camp somewhere along the Kenya-Somalia border. Michael Teak, posing as an environmentalist, makes contact with Hatasil to pass along \$25,000. Moments later, the camp is obliterated by air and ground forces. Thirty people – many of them women and children – are massacred.

At a party in Professor Susan Lowell's honor, rumors are circulating that she was wrong in choosing Hatasil as her hero. Lowell, who has made herself the white face of Africa, has backed a warlord who massacred a whole village of his own wives and children.

The young novelist, the son of Sports Illustrated editor Terry McDonell, is certainly well connected and privileged and has been from his early years. But the young author is a shy and modest person, who is known for being polite to his peers, the press and his elders.

Among the first buyers of *Twelve* in 2002 was McDonell's godfather, Morgan Entrekin, publisher of Grove/Atlantic. But McDonell has shown that he is a good enough writer that his connections are beside the point.

He wrote *Twelve* fairly quickly – during the summer



between his junior and senior years in high school. Michiko Kakutani, a New York Times book critic, praised it saying the book was "as fast as speed, as relentless as acid."

When asked about his relationship with Harvard students as a published author, he said, "About 50 percent of the people I met wanted to be investment bankers. And most of those who did want to write

were poets, so it was all pretty supportive."

Joel Schumacher was eager to direct a film adaptation of *Twelve* after reading the book. He said, "It's sort of like Margaret Mead. For Nick to have written this at 17 would be staggering. I keep asking myself how could he know all this at 17?"

The movie will star Kiefer Sutherland, Chace Crawford and 50 Cent.

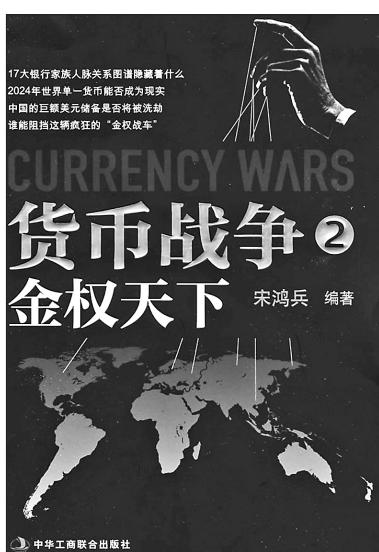
Pulling the strings of the world economy

By Jin Zhu

Song Hongbing has released a new sequel to *Currency Wars*, the 2007 book that made him famous when its precise prediction of the current financial crisis came true.

Currency Wars II (307pp, China Industry and Commerce Publishing House, 39 yuan) continues the focus on international banking, especially the connections between 17 important foreign banking families – especially the Rothschilds and Rockefellers – distributed over Germany, Britain, France and the US. The book claims to expose their hand in worldwide wars, revolutions, coups and crises from 1789 onward.

Song, a Chinese national who has lived in the US since 1994 and is an amateur historian, says money competes as a fourth power against legislative, administrative and judicial powers. He says China must recognize its true opponent in the global market for its economy to thrive.



"Behind cooperation and competition in the global market is a series of informal financial rules under the surface. Without understanding that, we cannot realize the essential reason global financial groups rise and fall, or make wise decisions about how to respond," he says.

"At present, 90 percent of the financial power on Wall Street is in the hands of Jews. Almost all of them are

from Germany, so most of the 17 families I mention in the book are German," Song says.

Song says he has read over 50 million words worth of reference materials during the last three years while preparing for this book – those include histories of powerful banking families, maps and financial relevant reports.

"The quantity of information in *Currency Wars II* is 10 times what was present in the last book. It now covers 500 famous people who have steered the development of a global economy," Song says.

The book explores the puppet masters behind the French Revolution of the 18th century, the rise of Adolf Hitler and his monetary policy and financial policy during World War II and the reason Germany turned around so quickly after the war.

This time, Song predicts that there will be a single worldwide currency by 2024 and it will not be the dollar, the euro, the yuan or the yen. "The idea of a single cur-

rency was first proposed in the 1960s. When a currency becomes a world invoicing note, the country has to export its currency, which always produces a trade deficit. As the trade deficit worsens, it becomes vulnerable to a financial crisis or prolonged recession," Song says.

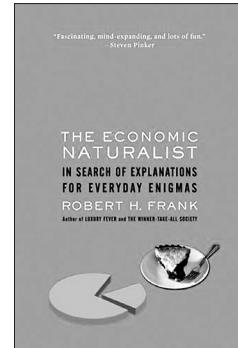
"The right to distribute currency is the top power in society. I believed the final aim of the current financial crisis is to abolish the current national currency and set up a single currency system. The year 2024 is not only my guess, but also a reliable point predicted by the [Single Global Currency] Association," he says.

Although the precious book, which was popular with diverse readers, has been called a "financial novel" by many economists, Song said he does not mind any judgment on the new one.

"It does not matter that someone reads it as a novel or a textbook, or if it receives an award or criticism from an institution or economist. The value of a book is judged by its readers," he says.

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends these new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.



The Economic Naturalist: In Search of Explanations for Everyday Enigmas

By Robert H. Frank, 240pp, Basic Books, 112 yuan

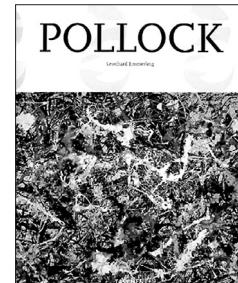
The book employs basic economic principles to answer scores of intriguing questions from everyday life, and introduces key ideas such as the cost-benefit principle, the "no cash on the table" principle and the law of one price. This is as delightful and painless a way to learn fundamental economics as there is.



Chairs: Catalogue of The Delft Faculty of Architecture Collection

By Otakar Maicel, Sander Woerden and Charlotte van Wijk, 272pp, o10 Publishers, 220 yuan

This collection of 240 chairs reflects the development of chair design since the 17th century and includes both world famous designs and rarities. The entire collection is presented for the first time, accompanied by images, descriptions and analytical texts.



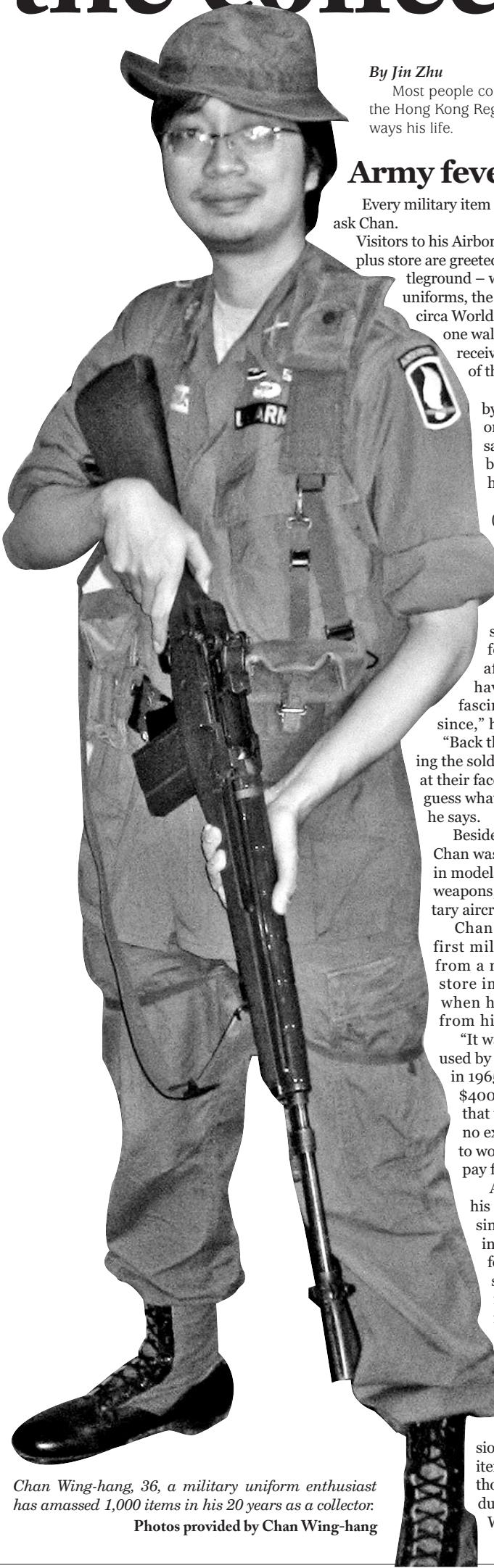
Jackson Pollock

By Leonhard Emmerling, 96pp, Taschen, 88 yuan

A tragic icon of Abstract Expressionism, Jackson Pollock (1912-1956) took influences from Picasso and Mexican surrealism and developed his own way of seeing, interpreting and expressing. Though his name inevitably conjures up images of the drip paintings for which he is most famous, this technique was only developed midway through his career. The progression from his earlier work to his final action paintings, a veritable revolution of painting as a concept, reveals the genius of this tortured artist whom many call the greatest modern American painter.

(By He Jianwei)

Bitten by the collecting bug



By Jin Zhu

Most people consider collecting a hobby, but for Chan Wing-hang, 36, founder of the Hong Kong Regimentals Association, collecting military paraphernalia is in many ways his life.

Army fever

Every military item is valuable if you ask Chan.

Visitors to his Airborne Military Surplus store are greeted by a virtual battleground – with hundreds of uniforms, the US national flag, circa World War I, covering one wall and a radio receiver set on a corner of the floor.

Chan was bitten by the military bug one day when he saw his older brother arranging his toy soldiers.

“The scene (he created) had about 50 models standing in battle positions on the bed. It stuck with me for several days afterward and I have been totally fascinated ever since,” he says.

“Back then I liked studying the soldiers and looking at their faces, trying to guess what they were like,” he says.

Besides toy soldiers, Chan was also interested in models of military weapons, tanks and military aircrafts.

Chan bought his first military uniform from a military surplus store in Hong Kong when he graduated from high school.

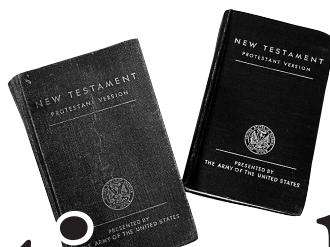
“It was a field jacket used by the US Army in 1965 and cost HK \$400 (352 yuan) at that time. Since I had no extra money, I had to work part-time to pay for it,” he says.

After 20 years, his collection has since grown to include 1,000 uniforms and thousands of other military items, including badges, handbooks, flags, helmets, and canteens.

Chan says he has a particular passion for US Army items, especially those produced during or after World War II.

Chan Wing-hang, 36, a military uniform enthusiast has amassed 1,000 items in his 20 years as a collector.

Photos provided by Chan Wing-hang



US Army Parachutist Jacket introduced in 1942.



The inside of his shop



US M1C paratrooper helmet, used by paratroopers in World War II.



An US Army Bible printed in 1942.



Military dress at his wedding

You may now kiss the officer

Few of people can connect their hobby with their personal life.

Chan took it to the next level when he showed up at his wedding in a US Army uniform issued during World War II. He and his wife took their wedding photos with a backdrop of trains and rails at the Hong Kong Railway Museum.

He changed into three uniforms on the wedding day: one issued by the Marines, one by the Navy and one by the Army.

“It was the happiest day in my life. I always dreamed of getting married in one of my service uniforms ever since I started collecting. I am glad that my wife knew me well enough that she was psychologically prepared for it,” Chan says.

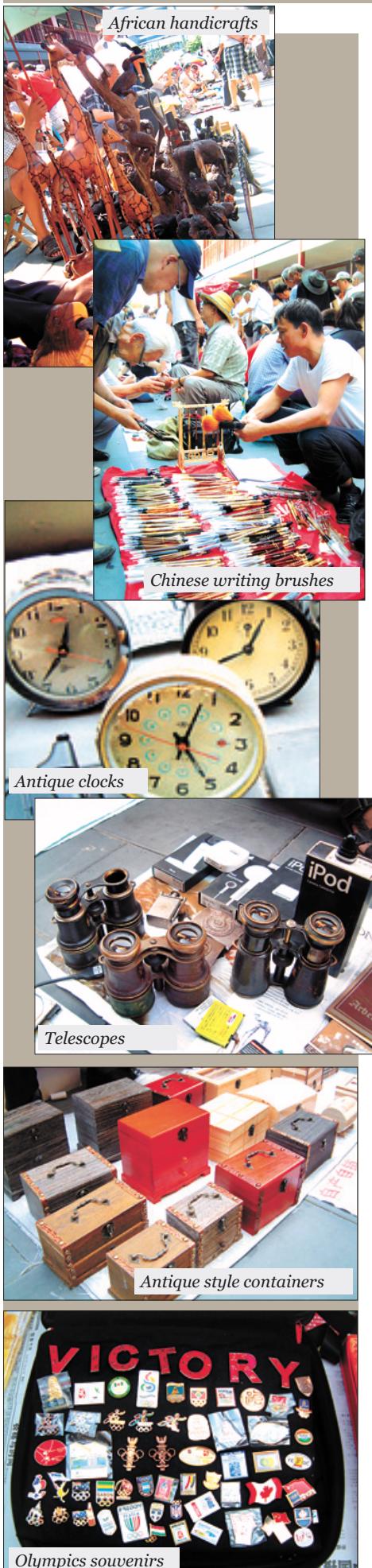
Panjiayuan's new flea market

By Zhao Hongyi

The first free flea market in Beijing opened this month at the famous Panjiayuan Antique Market. On August 6, more than 580 individuals opened their stalls in the market with 60,000 visitors perusing the aisles aiming to find great deals on antiques, electronics and accessories. According to the flea market's manager, Huang Juan, the turnout far surpassed expectations.

Open every day Monday through Friday, the flea market will operate through the end of August, with the chance of continuing "If it is needed," Huang told *Beijing Today*.

Last Thursday *Beijing Today* visited the market to have a look at what this new flea market has in store.



Photos by Zhao Hongyi

Small-size furniture and crafts

In the open-air market, furniture is not the focus. Still, many sellers have small crafts and traditional Chinese furniture on display.

A retired government official, Qu Guangming, comes to this market to display his crafts. "I don't care whether I can sell them out or not. In fact, I suspect that people appreciate my works more than they're interested in buying them," Xu said. "But that's okay. It's just for fun."

Xu's works include old Chinese furniture and jewelry boxes. Most of the small crafts are engraved with silver, forming peonies, birds and Chinese characters in a simple, yet elegant style.

"I enjoy making these small items to kill time," Xu, the son of a carpenter, said. "If I had not come to Beijing, I would have been a carpenter."

Xu's works are incredibly cheap, priced at 10 to 50 yuan each, making splendid gifts for friends, family and colleagues.

Olympic souvenirs

Though Beijing Olympic Games culminated one year ago, many Olympics souvenirs have become collector's items. In the flea market, more than 20 stalls sell souvenirs collected during the games, including many from foreign delegates as well as from previous Olympic Games.

Prices range from 50 to 100 yuan each.

"I have many from the previous games, like the Moscow, Los Angeles and Sydney," one of the sellers told me. "These souvenirs will become more precious in years to come," he stressed. "They're worth collecting now!"

Clocks and watches, from antiques to name brands

China manufactures most of the world's watches, but old watches and clocks are quickly becoming hot collectors items among Chinese antique collectors. You can find old-fashioned antique clocks and watches here, with many from the early 1990s as well as world famous brands.

The clocks, in good condition, sell from between 10 to 1,000 yuan, while most of the watches cost much more, from 50 to several thousand yuan.

"My family has stored many clocks throughout its history," says Wen Qishan, a young clock seller, said. "I guess that's where my interest comes from - I've been repairing clocks since childhood."

New porcelains for cheaper prices

Porcelains are another eye-catching aspect of the flea market.

The majority of the porcelains sold here are not antiques, rather they are newly made, which means that the prices are unbelievably low, from 1 yuan for a plate to 100 yuan for a vase or several traditional Chinese porcelain jars, pots or decorations.

"It's important to tell the buyers that these porcelains are new, not antiques," Jia Chunshi, an old sales man told me. "We do not have so many antiques today, so we sell new products instead. But we have to tell buyers this and offer prices at considerably low prices."

Chinese brushes and other writing tools

Writing brushes have a history dating back to over 3,000 years ago. Today, they are made in various sizes with many types of hairs, but the model is the same.

In the flea market, you can find many types of writing brushes at very low prices, ranging from 10 to 80 yuan.

Along with brushes are other tools used by the students and scholars in ancient China, such as Chinese ink, silk stones, telescopes and hand-made paper.

African handicrafts

The flea market initially expected expats to participate by selling items from their home countries. But during the first week of the market, fewer foreigners signed on than they hoped.

Nevertheless, a young African woman joined in with the locals. Speaking fluent Chinese, she sold African-style handicrafts, which was quite the eye-catcher in the crowded market.

When asked the price range of her commodities, she said, "From 50 to 3,000 yuan each, depending on which one you choose."

The handicrafts include wild animals from the African continent, such as giraffes, boars, elephants and eagles.



Panjiayuan Flea Market

For those interested in vending, each stall is 1.5-by-2.5 meters and costs only 10 yuan each day with every Thursday free.

Items displayed must be smaller than 1 cubic meter. Food, garments, bicycles, pharmaceuticals, audio and video products, mobile phones and fake products are prohibited to be brought into the flea market for trading.

Time: 6 am - 6 pm every working day

Contact: Huang Ling

Tel: 6770 7205, 6776 4863

How to get there: Take subway line 10 to the Jingsong Station and walk 200 meters south. Or take Bus 300, 627, 707, 974, YT107, T3, T8 to Panjiayuan and walk west 50 meters.

This week, aiming to control the number of vendors in the over-crowded market, flea market organizer began distributing free stall coupons. Individuals can go to the organizer's office between 8:30 am to 5:30 pm on Monday to obtain the coupons for a free stall on Thursday.

Spanish tapas and wine

New



Taiwanese Fushion

Homestyle tofu, 26 yuan



New

Assorted vegetable with special sauce, 38 yuan

Photos by Wendy Zha

By Annie Wei

When talking about dining at the hutong-style dining complex, Nanxinchang, most people think of the Dadong Beijing duck restaurant or Huangjia Liangchang, but there are other good options worthy of your pennies.

One such recommendation is Before and After restaurant, which serves up authentic Taiwanese cuisine in a variety of creative recipes at reasonable prices.

Based upon its decoration alone, there is not much to distinguish it from other Chinese restaurants. But what makes it special comes from origin of the dishes themselves, which are old family recipes donated by a dozen Taiwanese celebrities.

For example, the smoked shark meat (38 yuan) is authentic Taiwan street food; the Ukrainian salad (32 yuan) is based on a recipe from the Ukrainian consul; and the wheat and corn cream (28 yuan per glass and 98 yuan per draft)'s recipe is provided by a fitness champion. We also highly recommend the towel gourd with fresh yam (28 yuan) – light, juicy and tasty. Assorted vegetable with special sauce (38 yuan) is a good salad choice for its many kinds of vegetables and nuts, as well as the tasty sauce, which includes majiang (the Chinese name for black sesame paste), sugar and cider vinegar. Steamed yellow croakers with preserved vegetables (98 yuan) tastes very tender, however the fish is disappointingly small.

The restaurant claims all of its dishes and fruit juices are prepared and made with purified water, and that live-stock used are raised in a non-polluted area. Dishes here are served with less oil, sugar and salt.

As more Taiwanese people came to Beijing and opened Taiwanese restaurants, they varied the bar in local dining quality and service. The place is now packed with customers during meal hours, making a reservation for the tables near the windows a must.

Before and After

Where: A13, Nanxinchang, 22 Dongshishitiao, Dongcheng District
Open: 11 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6405 9598
Cost: starting from 60 yuan per person

By Annie Wei

A new bar and restaurant just opened on Sanlitun north street earlier this month: Carmen Tapas and Restaurant at Nali Patio.

It is a white wall and green frame bangalow on the north side, surrounded by bamboo trees and small plants.

Regular diners at this area will be pleasantly surprised, not only because of its lovely decoration but its prices for tapas have slightly dropped. For example, most cold tapas dishes cost only 12-14 yuan, but some are a bit more expensive, like the marinated olives (30 yuan). Hot tapas are 20 to 40 yuan. The only gripe is the portion size – the most delicious ones come in small servings. The grilled mushrooms (28 yuan) are only three mushrooms and topped with bacon, salt and olive oil, and the spicy stuffed mussels shells (24 yuan) consist of only two mussels.

The restaurant also offers proper meals from salads (45 – 65 yuan) to traditional paellas. Its seafood paella is considered the most authentic Spanish one in town. Traditional seafood paella costs 199 yuan and feeds two and 399 yuan for four. They are all in big portions. If you orders paella, you will not leave much space for other food.

They have five different kinds of wine, which are sold by the glass, costing from 30 yuan to 45 yuan. There are more options for bottled wines, ranging from 190 to 1,180 yuan.

With its two terraces, it is also a nice place to chill out at night with friends.

Carmen Tapas Bar

Where: Sanlitun north street, Nali Patio
Open: 10 am – 11 pm
Tel: 6417 8038
Cost: Starting from 50 yuan per person



Spanish omelet, 10 yuan



Grilled mushrooms, 28 yuan
Photos by Huang Xiao

Fried squids, 26 yuan

Same burgers, new spot



New

By Annie Wei

It opened only two months ago, and still there are people who have not paid a visit to the new Kiosk yet. Located in the alley opposite the Gongti north gate and next to the Gongsan Plaza construction site, it is now a bright pink two-floor house with a small terrace.

The old Kiosk, a small booth with outside tables and chairs at Nali Mall has been there for years, and won the loyalty of many diners. People liked its laid-back style and quality burgers.

The new spot retains its traditional but simple menu. Burgers cost 26 to 33 yuan, beef, chicken, pork, duck and sausage. Its grilled chicken sandwich (26 yuan) offers a generous amount of chicken breast, bacon, bacon, cheese and onion. Salads costs 21 yuan. They are simple, using only peppers and tomatoes, but they are very tasty. French fries (12 yuan), made of fresh and newly peeled potatoes, come in decent portions. They also have Chilean and Italian wines for 30-40 yuan per glass.

The new Kiosk is more spacious: the second floor has seven tables, big windows and a small bar area. Its owner Sasha, from Siberia, said that Wi-Fi would also be available soon.

Now it won't be long before the young neighbors rediscover this old neighborhood burger joint, with a sleeker, more connected feel.

Kiosk

Where: Xingfu Yicun, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 11 pm
Tel: 5166 3328
Cost: Starting from 30 yuan per person



Chicken burger, 26 yuan
Photos by Huang Xiao

Listen to the music of this city



5

Friday, August 21

Exhibition**M&M – Room in Beijing opening**

Where: Linspace, Room 301, Building E, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: Until September 15, daily

Admission: Free

Yuanmingyuan 1860 Painting Exhibition

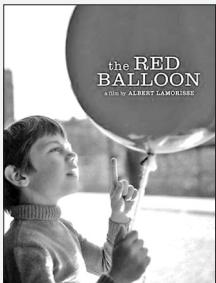
Where: Haiyantang, Yuanmingyuan Park, 28 Qinghua Xi Lu, Haidian District

When: Until August 27, daily,

7 am – 7 pm

Admission: 10 yuan for entering the park, the exhibition is free

Tel: 6263 7561

Movie**The Red Balloon**

Where: Lele Bar, 50m east of the north gate of the Communication University of China, Dingfuzhuang, Chaoyang Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6576 5987

Hao Yun

Photo by Cai Xiaochuan

By Wang Yu

Beijing is a city full of sounds. With so many buildings, cars and people, the buzzing melodies they create collide and invade our ears. For those looking for an escape from noise and a return to music, Hao Yun's concert at MAO Livehouse next Thursday might be just the solution.

Born in late 1970s, the singer used to play in different bands as guitarist and taught music in a local middle school. After over 10 years of ups and downs in the local music scene, Hao has released *Hao Yun Beijing*, his debut album released last year.

While the tendency of young musicians is to absorb more and more elements from Western music, Hao, on the contrary, continues to embrace the localized rock sound made popular by early rockers such like Cui Jian. Still, there are a variety of genres in which Hao's music can be classified and he also uses a lot of traditional Chinese music instruments such as the sanxian.

Each of Hao's songs was born in the hutongs. The lyrics are about the regular lives of people in this city who are busy making a living and catching up with the steps of the rapidly developing society:

"The city is growing fast, but I've lost my playgrounds. I'm fooling around in the crowds, but who could give me an answer? The city is growing and flourishing with more and more buildings. But I'm just like a frog that can never see the afterglow of the sun."

Renowned sanxian musician, Ma Xiaoxiang, will also play in the band. Born in a family of reputable folk artists, Ma is one of the best and most original sanxian players.

There is sound in this city

Where: MAO Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: August 27, 8:30-11 pm

Admission: 60 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080

6

Saturday, August 22

Exhibition**You Came Too Late****– Zhou Yilu Solo Exhibition**

Where: Platform China, east end of art zone A, 319-1, Caochangdi, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 20, daily except

Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 0091

Report to the Motherland**– Sixty Years of Art in the New China**

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until September 14, daily,

9 am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6400 6326

Movie**San Li Dong**

Where: 5/F Wenjin Hotel, Tsinghua Science Park, Haidian District

When: 4:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6252 5566

Nightlife**Six Duets**

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6400 6472

M-Audio

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 2 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 65860065 ext. 8213

7

Sunday, August 23

Exhibition**Feng Gang's Photograph Exhibition**

Born in Beijing in 1970s, Feng Gang is a deaf photographer who has held numerous job and published numerous books. This exhibition showcases his photography.

Where: Chopstick Gallery, inside the Chopstick Cafe, 12A Yandai Xiejie, Di'anmen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: Until August 28, daily, 10 am - 2 am next day

Admission: Free

Tel: 6402 8988

Sunrise Colors

Where: Being 3 Art Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 31, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5878 9875

Movie**Lion King**

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuayuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 2 pm

Admission: 10 yuan for chil-

dren; 20 yuan for adults; 25 yuan for a child and parent

Tel: 8601 6860

Nightlife**Zhong Tongqian's show**

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6265 3177

Wuhuagu

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, 2308 (3/F) North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 5900 0969

**Free Symphony**

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Upcoming**Exhibition****Law – Zhang Ding Solo Exhibition**

Where: ShangHART Beijing, 261 Caochangdi, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: August 30 – October 18, daily

except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 3202

Stage in September**Concert****Roland Batik Solo Concert**

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: September 11, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Bach Cycle – Sheng Yuan Piano 2

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: September 18, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

China National Symphony Orchestra Performing Season – Opening Concert

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: September 3, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-500 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Lucerne Festival in Beijing 2009

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: September 20-25, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-1,580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Concert on Opera: "Madam Butterfly"

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: September 12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Drama**Broadway Musical Cats**

Where: Beijing Exhibition Center, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: September 19-27, 7:30 pm

Admission: 280-1,180 yuan

Tel: 6835 1592

Splendid Indian Musical: Merchants of Bollywood

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: September 25-29, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-2,009 yuan

Tel: 5166 3124

Large-scale Shanxi Zarzuela: Liberation

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

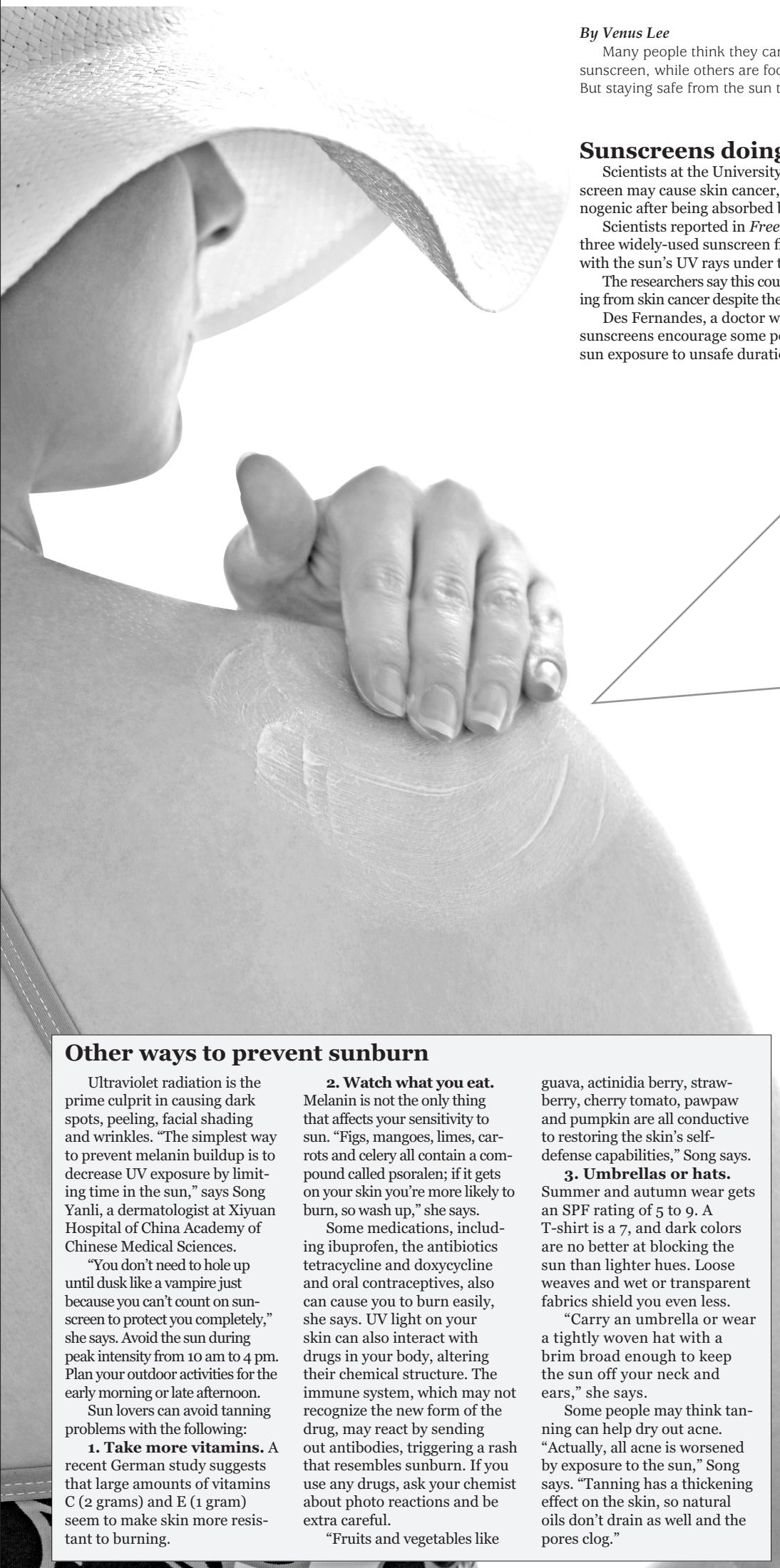
When: September 1-7, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)

AUTUMN NO SEASON TO SLACK OFF ON SUNSCREEN



By Venus Lee

Many people think they can stay in the sun as long as they want once they put on sunscreen, while others are fooled by autumn's cool weather into letting down their guard. But staying safe from the sun takes year-round dedication.

Sunscreens doing more harm than good

Scientists at the University of California warn that the chemicals in sunscreen may cause skin cancer, as some compounds used can become carcinogenic after being absorbed by the skin.

Scientists reported in *Free Radical Biology and Medicine* that three widely-used sunscreen filters attacked cells when combined with the sun's UV rays under the skin.

The researchers say this could be why more people are suffering from skin cancer despite the increased use of sunscreen.

Des Fernandes, a doctor with the team, warns that sunscreens encourage some people to prolong their sun exposure to unsafe durations.

Using sunscreen correctly

1. Check for total protection. Throw out any sunscreen that does not block both bands of ultraviolet light: UVA and UVB. Long-wavelength UVA rays penetrate the skin deeply – all the way to the structural support layers of collagen – causing wrinkles. UVB rays, which are shorter, stop at the surface and burn it.

2. Choose the proper SPF. You have probably heard people say a million times that every sunscreen should have a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or more. Beyond that, the guidelines are vague. Stores are packed with lotions rated SPF 30, 45 and even 60.

"Higher SPFs give little additional protection and are more likely to contain chemicals that irritate skin and cause skin allergies," says Yan Yan, a dermatologist at Peking Union Hospital. "The higher the SPF, the harsher it is on the skin. There is no point to going above SPF 30."

"Lotions with an SPF of 10-15 are enough for daily use; SPF 15-20 is fine if you are walking around and shopping. An SPF of 20-30 is recommended for people who are going traveling, and SPF 30 is necessary for anyone planning to swim or sunbathe," she says.

3. Lay it on thick. A teaspoon is appropriate for the face, and two tablespoons should cover the body, Yan says. This is about 25 milliliters, a quarter of an average tube. "But most people only wear half that amount. "If you put on a layer that's half as thick as it's supposed to be, you will get half the protection," she says.

4. Buy a lotion that blocks. Check the label for one or both of these tried-and-true ingredients: zinc oxide and titanium dioxide. Unlike avobenzone and other chemical sunscreens that penetrate the skin and work by absorbing rays, zinc and titanium are physical blockers which rest on the skin's surface to deflect light. "If it has titanium dioxide or zinc oxide, it will offer better UVA protection," she says.

5. Slather it on early and often. Sunscreen works only while it is on your skin. Sweat can melt it, and a towel can rub it off. Re-apply your lotion every hour or two – even if it is waterproof. "No matter the SPF, by law waterproof sunscreens are only required to protect for 80 minutes when wet and they are not necessarily sweat proof," she says.

6. Do not count on cosmetics. SPF moisturizers, foundations, and other skin care products are great innovations, but they protect less than you think. "To get full SPF coverage, you need to apply about a teaspoon of any product to your face: Far more than that dab of moisturizer or foundation you are using," she says.

"You can't boost SPF by layering products, an SPF 8 foundation over an SPF 8 moisturizer isn't equivalent to SPF 16 – it's still just SPF 8. The highest SPF that goes on your face determines the protection factor."

Make sure your cosmetics block UVA – many do not.

CFP Photo

Other ways to prevent sunburn

Ultraviolet radiation is the prime culprit in causing dark spots, peeling, facial shading and wrinkles. "The simplest way to prevent melanin buildup is to decrease UV exposure by limiting time in the sun," says Song Yanli, a dermatologist at Xiyuan Hospital of China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences.

"You don't need to hole up until dusk like a vampire just because you can't count on sunscreen to protect you completely," she says. Avoid the sun during peak intensity from 10 am to 4 pm. Plan your outdoor activities for the early morning or late afternoon.

Sun lovers can avoid tanning problems with the following:

1. Take more vitamins. A recent German study suggests that large amounts of vitamins C (2 grams) and E (1 gram) seem to make skin more resistant to burning.

2. Watch what you eat. Melanin is not the only thing that affects your sensitivity to sun. "Figs, mangoes, limes, carrots and celery all contain a compound called psoralen; if it gets on your skin you're more likely to burn, so wash up," she says.

Some medications, including ibuprofen, the antibiotics tetracycline and doxycycline and oral contraceptives, also can cause you to burn easily, she says. UV light on your skin can also interact with drugs in your body, altering their chemical structure. The immune system, which may not recognize the new form of the drug, may react by sending out antibodies, triggering a rash that resembles sunburn. If you use any drugs, ask your chemist about photo reactions and be extra careful.

"Fruits and vegetables like

guava, actinidia berry, strawberry, cherry tomato, pawpaw and pumpkin are all conductive to restoring the skin's self-defense capabilities," Song says.

3. Umbrellas or hats. Summer and autumn wear gets an SPF rating of 5 to 9. A T-shirt is a 7, and dark colors are no better at blocking the sun than lighter hues. Loose weaves and wet or transparent fabrics shield you even less.

"Carry an umbrella or wear a tightly woven hat with a brim broad enough to keep the sun off your neck and ears," she says.

Some people may think tanning can help dry out acne. "Actually, all acne is worsened by exposure to the sun," Song says. "Tanning has a thickening effect on the skin, so natural oils don't drain as well and the pores clog."

Chinese eunuchs and art

Exploring the eunuch tombs, frescos and temples

By Zhang Dongya

The eunuch occupies an extremely special and mysterious place in Chinese history. They once served in imperial palaces and played an important role in feudal dynasties, gaining extreme notoriety over thousands of years due to their growing power in the court.

Known more for their scheming, it is often hard for people to connect fine arts with the eunuch; but hidden in the western hills of Beijing there are a few temples and tombs sponsored by eunuchs or built for them.

This past Thursday, the Exhibition of Eunuch Culture with more information was reopened in Tianyi's Graveyard, one of the stops in the collection. Enjoying the masterpieces, we explore the life of the eunuchs through the subtleties in the structures themselves.

Treasures on Moshikou

Moshikou, located in the suburb of Shijingshan District, can hardly be listed as one of the city's more conspicuous attractions. However, it has an old street that dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) dotted with many treasures.

Walking into the east entrance of Moshikou Avenue you will see a stele reading "Jingxi Gudao", or Ancient Road in West Beijing. It refers to the old-time commercial road through Beijing to the west areas like Shanxi Province and Inner Mongolia.

No troops of camels and merchants are seen anymore in Moshikou; its tall arcades are also left collapsed and shattered. Though it is dusty and a little difficult to navigate, look hard enough and soon you will find a sign reading all the treasures on the road: Cheng'en Temple, Glacial Vestige Exhibition Hall, Fahai Temple, Tianyi's Graveyard and Cishan Temple.

This "Eunuch and Art" trip includes Cheng'en Temple, Fahai Temple and Tianyi's Graveyard on Moshikou Avenue. According to a local saying, the above three destinations all have their features in architecture design and construction – Cheng'en Temple is famous for its underground constructions, Fahai Temple for its carpentry and the Tianyi's Graveyard for its stone carving.



Cheng'en Temple, closed for 500 years since it was built, is expected to open to the public soon.

Photo by Sherlock

Cheng'en Temple, mysteries in securing gate

The first stop of the trip is Cheng'en Temple. Even in ancient times, the temple was not open to the public. Currently, the temple is under restoration, but continues to attract visitors who stop to view it from outside its gates.

Built in 1510, the Fifth Year of Zhengde in Ming Dynasty, it was the temple where Ming and Qing emperors came to worship Buddha. There are four halls in the temple. The most distinctive feature of the temple are the four stone towers located in the four directions in the corners of the temple,



A reproduction of Guan Yin in Fahai Temple

which is rare in temple construction. The four towers all have basements, and underground tunnels connect them.

People have speculated that the temple was an important base for eunuchs in the Ming Dynasty, which served as a secret organization for intelligence operations.

Unlike the other temples, Cheng'en offers worship for both Buddhists and Taoists, in the east and west yard in the temple, respectively. However, no Buddhist or Taoist statues are left having been destroyed in the Cultural Revolution.

After restoration, visitors will be able to see the refined frescos in Tianwang Hall in the temple, as well as the architectural style of the Ming Dynasty.



Fahai Temple, located in Moshikou, is famous for its Ming frescos.

Photo by Carola Lampe

Fahai Temple, best Buddhist frescos in Ming

Further down Moshikou Avenue is Fahai Temple, situated at the foot of Cuiwei Mountain.

Frescoes are common in temples, but the largest among them are kept in three places in the country. Dunhuang fresco features frescoes of the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534), Yongle Palace in Shanxi Province has the most famous frescos of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), and finally, the best frescos of the Ming Dynasty are kept in Fahai Temple.



Thousand-year-old cypresses in Fahai Temple
CFP Photos



Frescoes in Fahai Temple were painted by court painters of the Ming Dynasty, but also include features from the Tang.

Photo provided by 90 Percent Travel

Continued on page 21...



Lions carved on the graves closely resemble those in real life.

Photo provided by 90 Percent Travel



Stone carvings found in the cemetery are life-like.

... continued from page 20

The temple was constructed in 1443, with funds collected by a Ming Dynasty eunuch named Li Tong.

Many of its halls have collapsed and been renovated, but only Daxiong-gbaodian, or the Mahavira Hall, has survived intact. And it is inside this hall that the large frescos are located.

The nine parts of the frescos depict Buddhist ceremonies, the sacred land of Buddhism, flying Apsaras, Guan Yin, Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, heavenly deities and fairies which are meticulously painted in the traditional Chinese style. As many as 77 figures can be found in the frescos, all vivid and lively.

According to the inscriptions on a stone pillar built by eunuchs, including one called Li Fushan, the frescos were painted by court painters of the Ming. However, artists of later generations found some signs of the Tang Dynasty. Some said the painters painted the frescos to copy the style of Wu Daozi,

the most renowned Tang painter.

Last year, the temple reopened to the public after a two-year restoration, which attracted many interested in fresco art.

Tianyi's Graveyard, largest eunuchs' tombs and exhibitions

Just a few minutes' walk from the Fahai Temple is Tianyi's Graveyard.

The cemetery was built in 1605 for Ming Emperor Wanli's favorite eunuch, Tian Yi, who served three emperors and acted as Wanli's mentor and confidant.

During the reign of the Wanli emperor (1573-1620), the Imperial City housed

nearly 20,000 eunuchs, who played a role of unprecedented importance in that period.

The cemetery was designed to have spirit tunnels, consisting of an underground tomb complex and memorial stele wreathed in dragons.

Besides Tianyi's tomb, other eunuchs later shared the honor of being buried there. Now, there are five big graves, each of which is built with a set of sacrificial offerings: an incense urn, two candle holders and two vases.

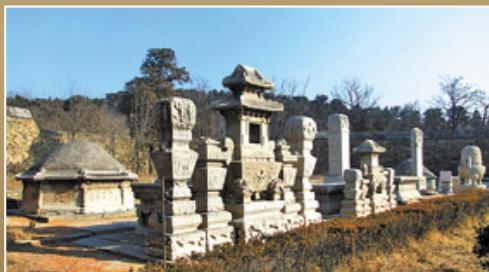
The stone carvings are famous in the cemetery. Not as other imperial officials' graves which have strict regulations, the eunuchs' cemetery seems to welcome folk craftsmen's works.

Unlike other traditional carvings of plums, orchids, bamboo

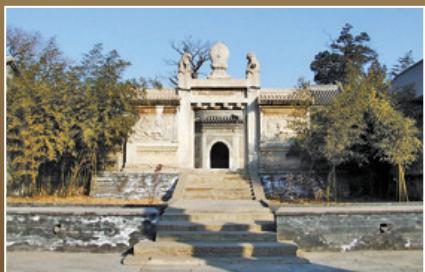
and chrysanthemums, plants carved in the eunuchs' cemetery are more common plants, like the morning glory. There is also a wall full of carvings of Ming-era musical instruments. Also, Buddhist and Taoist motifs are also carved onto their graves, along with images depicting folklore and morality tales.

The carvings are life-like. Lions carved on the graves are not like other stone lions, but resemble lions as they look in real life.

Moreover, an exhibition hall with more information about Chinese eunuchs was reopened this Thursday. It tells the history of Chinese eunuch culture, including the pictures of castrated eunuchs, Dowager empress Cixi and her eunuch Li Lianying, and China's last eunuch, Sun Yaoting (1902-1996), who is pictured making a visit to the Forbidden City in 1993.



The cemetery is designed to have spirit tunnels and sacrificial offerings.



Tianyi's Graveyard was built for Ming Emperor Wanli's favorite eunuch, Tian Yi.



CFP Photos

Travel information

Agency: 90 Percent Travel

Cost: 160 yuan (20 percent off for children under sixteen)

What's included:

1. Guided service with local experts
2. Transportation with air-conditioned bus
3. Drinking water
4. Tickets (The same size replica of the temple mural included, the authentic mural with 100 yuan for a charge)
5. A tea break
6. Traveler's accident insurance

Reservation: 15117916648

info@90percenttravel.com

Basic itinerary: Meet at 1 pm in front of Oriental Kenzo (Dongfang Yinzuo) at the southeast corner of Dongzhimen Bridge. Subway Line 2 or 13, and come back before 7 pm.

Notes: This tour requires 10 travelers to depart. Smaller group will use public transportation at a 50-yuan discount.

Dining



Wind down at the Wine Club

Hosted by Julia Zhu, the Hilton's trailblazing sommelier, the Wine Club will take you on a virtual journey through the world's finest wine regions, with wine flights accompanied by expert commentary and a selection of delectable canapes. The event will begin with a creative cocktail, followed by a fun and informative tasting of five wines.

Where: One East, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 6:30-10 pm
Cost: 150 yuan per person (15 percent surcharge)
Tel: 5865 5030

Sureno Sunday brunch

The Opposite House features a Sunday brunch with a selection of grilled meats, seafood and vegetables inspired by Mediterranean family dining.

Where: The Opposite House, The Village, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 12 am - 3 pm
Cost: 268 yuan for per adult, children up to 5 years old free of charge, 5-12 years old 50 percent off
Tel: 6410 5240

Taste Malaysia

Invigorate your senses and spice up your body and soul with Malaysian hawker stall cuisine. Celebrate Hari Merdeka, Malaysian Independence Day, in true Malaysian style with your senses.

Where: The Westin Financial Street, 9B Jinrong Jie, Xicheng District
When: August 1-31
Cost: lunch buffet 228 yuan, dinner buffet 298 yuan (15 percent service charge)
Tel: 6629 7810

Latin American experience

Havana's Latin American experience features a new menu of authentic items like smoked and cured meats and hams, South American tapas and Brazilian grills as main courses and classical rum-based desserts.

Every Saturday from August onwards, a three-piece vibrant Latino band will set the Havana mood. A range of Latin cocktails with Havana white and dark rum and Fidel Castro's rum collection will also be the highlights.

Where: Elements of Havana, the Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuai Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 5 pm - 1 am
Tel: 8587 6888 ext. 3015



Bountiful Birthday Celebrations

Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing is one year older on Sunday, and it wants to celebrate with you! The hotel lets its hair down this year with a generous "ageist" discount for anyone celebrating a birthday from Monday to Friday between August 1 and 31. Visit Café Cha on your big day and your group receive a discount corresponding to your age. If you are turning 18, that is 18 percent off the total bill; if you are turning 80, you get 80 percent off!

Prior reservations are essential. Call ahead to confirm.

The above discount cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions or membership card benefits. Guests must present proof of ID to be eligible for the discount.

Discount available only to groups of two to 10.

Where: Café Cha, Shangri-La Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District
When: Until August 31, Monday to Friday
Tel: 6841 2211 ext. 6715.

Hotel

SPG Moments

As the host hotel of 2009 Asia-Europe All Star Table Tennis Series, Four Points by Sheraton Beijing Haidian offers Starwood Preferred Guest members a once in a lifetime SPG moments opportunity. Pingpong fans will get a chance to play one-on-one table tennis with each of four top world ranked players.

The Four Points by Sheraton Simple Pleasures Pingpong Package allows a guest and his party the chance at a one-on-one practice match with four top world ranked table tennis players from 6-7pm August 24. It also includes two-day entrance tickets to the Asia-Europe All Stars Table Tennis Series on August 25 and 26 and free accommodations in the Superior Room with daily breakfasts from August 24-27.



New dishes

This Autumn, Chef Qiuming Tian of the 21st Floor Restaurant at The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing has prepared an array of creative dishes, including pork spareribs and braised spring chicken. Enjoy his new dishes and individual set menus with a spectacular panoramic view of the city.

Where: The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing, 10 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6590 5566



Room package

Sofitel Wanda Beijing presents an inspiring room package, which includes accommodations in the Luxury Room, complimentary buffet breakfast at VIC restaurant, complimentary broadband or Wi-Fi Internet access in guest rooms, complimentary broadband or Wi-Fi Internet access in the meeting rooms, full-day access to the main meeting room, two coffee breaks, an international buffet lunch at VIC, one complimentary upgrade to Luxury Premier Room and one welcome drink at M Bar upon group arrival.

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
When: before October 11

Cost: 1,488 yuan per night (15 percent surcharge); minimum 10 guest rooms, participants without guest rooms 500 yuan for full-day meeting

Tel: 8599 6666 ext. 6888

Third anniversary of Fashion Weekly

Fashion Weekly launched its third anniversary celebration party at Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel. More than 500 top stars and celebrities attended the night. Johnson Wong, the general manager of the hotel, was seen with Hong Kong stars Francis Ng and Miao Pu.

Aviation



Singapore Airlines A380 to Melbourne

Come September 29, customers traveling between Singapore and Melbourne will get to enjoy an unrivaled in-flight experience when Singapore Airlines starts running its Airbus A380, the largest passenger aircraft in the world. Melbourne will be the second city in Australia and sixth city in the Airline's network to receive the A380.

New Anya Hindmarch amenity BAG

Anya Hindmarch unveiled an iconic new in-flight amenity BAG for first class customers on British Airways. The new bag is one of many promotions preceding the opening of the new first class cabin later this year.

The Gladstone-style BAG is trimmed in cream and embellished with the original To Fly, To Serve coat of arms, featured on British Airways tailfins from 1984 to 1997. The new amenity BAG was created in BA's signature navy blue with color changes planned each forthcoming season.



Tourism

Tourist ticket for Athens

The Athens public transport organization OASA unveiled a new three-day ticket for €15 that will be valid for travel on all public transport in and around the city. The new tourist ticket acts as a travel card for

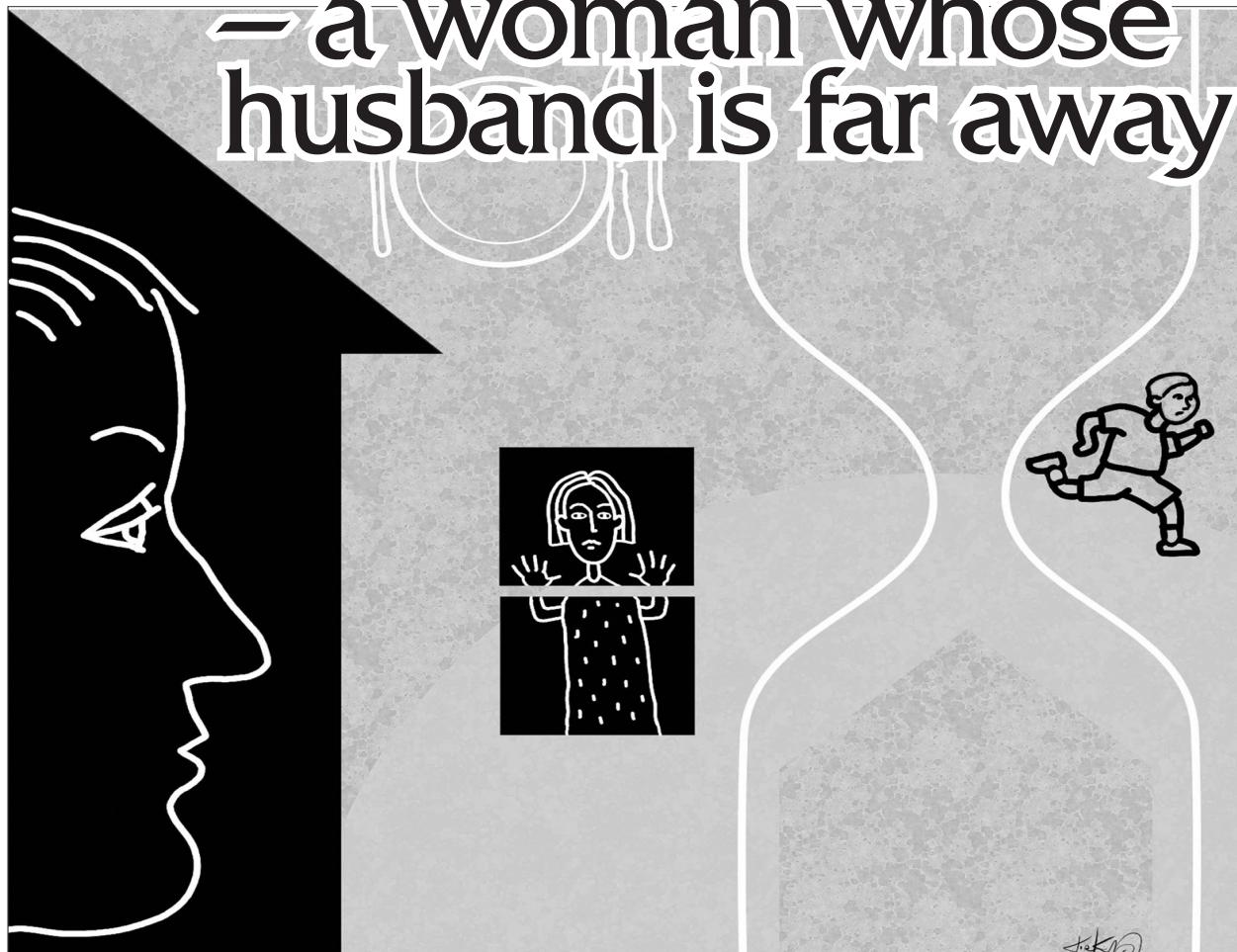
those visiting Athens for a short stay. It gives unlimited travel for three full days after its first use, including journeys to and from the airport and the 400 OASA Athens sight-seeing buses.

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

“California widow” – a woman whose husband is far away



CFP Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

Last weekend, a couple of my college mates came to my home for our first gathering in the more than 20 years since graduation.

Li Shan was an energetic boy in school who played soccer every day. He was from Harbin and liked drinking, which hurt him seriously when he separated from his first girlfriend and our classmate, Alice Tam.

After graduation, Li worked for a big import and export company and is now married with a family in Beijing. Alice went to the US for higher education and married a Chinese-American who runs the family

business in New York.

At this party, the two met for the first time in two decades, which left them feeling slightly embarrassed.

“So much time has passed,” Li Shan said, aiming to overcome the embarrassment.

Lin, another one of our school mates, had been working over five years in Los Angeles where Alice now lives. Therefore, they knew each other very well.

“You know,” Lin told Li, “Alice is now a California widow!”

“What? California widow? Your husband has died?” Li asked Alice, concerned.

“No, don’t listen to him,” Alice

warned. “My husband is busy on the east coast with his business, so he’s rarely ever in LA.”

“California widow means a woman separated from her husband, but not divorced,” Lin explained. “In the early years of US history, men were always the pioneers exploring the West, leaving their wives to follow later. That’s where the phrase came from.”

“Well, if you are a California widow, then I am a real Peking Man,” Li joked.

“You should be a real Beijing man, not Peking Man,” Alice replied, laughing. “None of us wants to meet an ape-man from millions of years ago!”

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Great for bathroom harmony

By Tiffany Tan

I thought I would be able to escape everything that had to do with work when I went on vacation recently. But I forgot that China-made products greet you wherever in the world you go – and sometimes Chinglish comes with the imported package.

Two Sundays ago, I went on a tour of a friend’s hotel under construction in the Philippines. The other visitors and I were checking out the suite when I noticed a toilet. I looked at it more closely and saw the tagline “Great for bathroom harmony.”

Warning bells went off in my head; a

beautiful and comfortable toilet makes for a more relaxing bathroom experience, but I doubted that was the image the manufacturer wanted to create.

Later, when I discussed this with a Chinese colleague, I was told “the Chinese words have nothing to do with the English translation.” *Zaoxing xingy*, *shishang gaoya* mean a “model that is unique, fashionable and elegant.” Maybe this will result in bathroom harmony, my colleague said. Chinglish sign or not, the advertising strategy seemed to have worked since the manufacturer made a big sale with the hotel.

QUALITY GUARANTEED

造型新颖 · 时尚高雅
Great for bathroom harmony

Photo by Alexander Onghocgan

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you’re planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. As a city lack of water

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): First of all, we must clarify the usage of the word “lack” before we pinpoint its error. It can be a transitive verb meaning “to be without; have no.” For instance, A homeless person lacks a home; or, Some guinea pigs lack tails. or, A coward lacks courage. It can also be a noun, meaning the condition of being without; shortage; not having enough. For instance, Lack of a fire makes him cold; or, Lack of rest made her tired; or, The campers’ main lack was dry wood for a fire.

Now, let us turn to this wrong phrase. The main problem lies in the fact that the writer does not know the function of the word “lack.” If you want to use it as a verb, then you will have to say: As a city that lacks water resources, or As a city lacking water resources. If you want to use it as a noun, then you will have to write in this way: As a city with lack of water. From this example, we may see how important it is for an English writer to know the function of each word, namely, its grammatical position in each phrase and each sentence.

Native speaker Steven Sandor

(SS): Can you find the verb in this phrase? Neither could I. There are two ways to fix this phrase, but the writer must first decide whether lack should be a noun or a verb. The easiest solution would be to make it a verb and conjugate it accordingly. “As a city that lacks water” sounds quite natural.

The writer could use lack as noun, but most of the options – “As a city which has a lack of water” – sound forced and awkward. Such tortured prose is better suited to political-speak than use by humans.

The real winner is direct language. Saying the city has a “lack of water” is a happy way to dance around a shortage. Shortages are scary and shock people into stockpiling water. “As a city with a water shortage” or “As a city short on water” would work fine. Depending on the severity, you could add more punch: As a city in drought.

2. Eco-friendly people

ZS: We may have much argument about this combination of the attributive modifying “people.” First, let me ask you: Will you say environmentally-friendly people? Obviously you will not say so. You will say environmentally-friendly plant, but definitely not environmentally-friendly people. When you speak of people of this kind, you will say: environmentalists. An environmentalist is a person concerned with problems of the environment and especially with the effects of uncontrolled pollution on the earth’s atmosphere. Similarly, you will say eco-friendly scheme, effort, plan, life style, but definitely not eco-friendly people. If you say eco-conscious people, it will be all right, because it is a matter of awareness or consciousness, not a matter of friendliness.

SS: People are very eco-friendly. They make excellent worm and insect feed when they die, assuming they are not stored in coffins. You can also burn and plow them into the ground as fertilizer.

Most likely, this was not the meaning the writer intended. Ecology is the study of the relationship between organisms and their environment. So really, he is trying to talk about people who care about the environment. Why waste time fixing a bad adjective when you can select a more precise noun like “environmentalists”?

In the Loop (2009)

Movie of the week

This movie is an unusually good and funny film from a usually tepid and unfunny genre. Check it out to learn how a war starts.

In stereotypically British fashion, the humor is dry. There are few belly laughs. Director Armando Iannucci's parody of the lunacy of political disinformation and thoughtless rhetoric comes across as a laborious broken record or the mouthpiece of an insufferable pacifist.

But you do not have to be a liberal to enjoy this, anyone with an appreciation for smart comedies, regardless of personal views, should find something to admire here.

Synopsis

The US President and UK Prime Minister fancy a war. But not everyone agrees that war is a good thing; especially US General George Miller and British Secretary of State for International Development Simon Foster.

However, when Simon accidentally backs military action on TV, he suddenly has a lot of friends in Washington, DC. If Simon can get in with the right people, and if his entourage of one can sleep with the right intern, and if they can both stop the Prime Minister's chief spin-doctor Malcolm Tucker rigging the vote at the UN, they can halt the war.

Scene 1

(Malcolm Tucker goes to Simon Foster's office after the latter's inappropriate words on the radio.)

Simon Foster (S): Come on, Malcolm, he asked me for ... for a personal opinion.

Malcolm Tucker (M): Why didn't you say? He asked you. Of course, that explains it. See if he'd asked you to **black up** (1), or to give him your PIN number or to shit yourself, would you have done that?

S: Blacked up, yes. It was on the radio, nobody would've known.

M: Very good.

S: War is basically unforeseeable, isn't it?

M: That is not our **line** (2). Walk the line! Look, we've got Karen Clark over from Washington today. We've got enough Pentagon goons here to stage a **coup d'état** (3).

Judy (J): Minister.

M: Not the time, love. I'm busy. Fuck off.

J: This is Toby.

S: Toby, hi. I'm glad you could make it. It's a bit of an odd morning here. Welcome to the madhouse. I apologize for Malcolm.

M: Don't apologize for me. Apologize for yourself. (Malcolm turns to Judy) Did I not just tell you to fuck off and yet you're still here?

J: It's true, I am, yes, still here.

M: Hi, fetus boy. Lesson one: I tell you to fuck off, what do you do?

Toby (T): Eff off!

M: You'll go far. Now, go!

S: Judy and I were thinking that I could **roll back** (4) on Question Time tonight.

M: You're not on Question Time. You've been dis-invited.

Scene 2

(Simon makes another mistake by judging the situation of war in front of the media.)

M: You are supposed to be a Cabinet minister! You are supposed to be Officer Class! Don't do this, don't **make waves** (5).

S: We can do without the ritual humiliation. You know I'm against talking up the war.

M: You're against talking up the war? Is that why you said "climb the mountain of conflict"? Do you know what you sounded like? A Nazi Julie Andrews.

S: I'm just saying I might be forced to the verge of making a stand.

M: A stand? Right, The White Stripes, outside. Uh-uh. (Malcolm stops Simon.) There's only two

people in The White Stripes.

(Toby and Judy get out.)

M: I um ... I admire you. I really do, I admire you. Making a stand ... So, I **take it** (6), I can tell the PM that you ... you don't want to go to Washington?

S: To where?

M: To Washington. See, the PM, he wants you ... Well, he wanted you to go on a fact-finder, you know. Problems we might have to face if it all goes boombastic in the Middle East.

S: Oh, right.

M: But, you know, that's you, you're on the verge, aren't you? You're on the verge of your stand, so ...

S: Well, Malcolm, come on, I don't know what words I used **in the heat of the moment** (7). Maybe in a sense, yeah, I am on the verge, but that's the important thing. I'm on the verge. I'm not in any way decided.

M: Christ on a bendy-bus. Don't be such a faff arse.

S: No, I'm standing my ground, on the verge.

M: Right, OK, well, when you go to America, talk to Karen Clark at the State Department, yeah?

S: Right, OK. I'll **give it a whirl** (8).

M: Keep away from Linton Barwick. He's pushing the war for Caulderwood's lot. I'll deal with him. He uses a live hand grenade as a fucking paper weight. That's a true story.

S: Wow, I won't talk to him.

M: Talk to as few people as possible: that would be best for you.

Scene 3

(Karen Clark turns to George Miller to help stop the war committee.)

Lt. Gen. George Miller (G): He's got his little cannons and he's got his little guns, and ... this is the problem with civilians wanting to go to war. Once you've been there, once you've seen it, you never want to go again, unless you absolutely have to. It's like France.

Karen Clark (K): So, you read Liza's paper, I guess?

G: Yeah, I'm a voracious reader. I am the Gore Vidal of the Pentagon... The case against war is far stronger than the case for war and the case for war is caveated all to hell. "Most analysts believe the state is looking to expand aggressively beyond its borders." Then you look down the caveats. The only source is "Ice Man."

K: The Ice Man. If he even exists.

G: "The INR says we can't trust him." We're disputing our own intelligence. We should **leak** (9) this.

Vocabulary

1. **black up**: to put on blackface, an theatrical make-up used in old American vaudeville theater that is now considered racist

2. **line**: here it means responsibility

3. **coup d'état**: the sudden overthrow of a government by a small military force

4. **roll back**: to retreat or return to a previous position

5. **make waves**: to cause a disturbance or controversy

6. **take it**: suppose

7. **in the heat of the moment**: during passionate feelings

8. **give it a whirl**: to attempt

9. **leak**: to disclose information to the press, usually without authorization

(By Wang Yu)